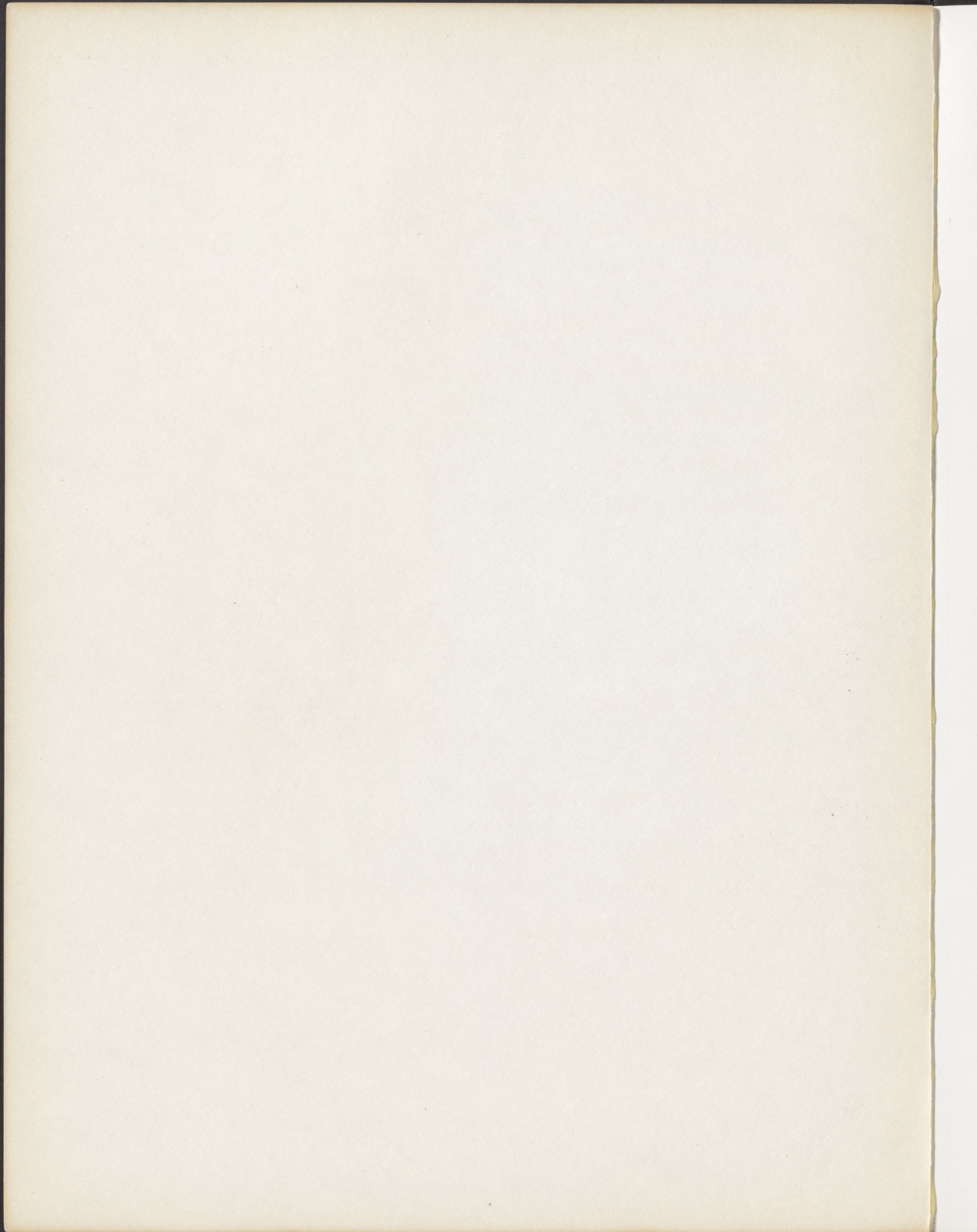


Gila River  
Relocation Center  
1942 - 1945



50 - Year Reunion  
Souvenir Booklet  
1995







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## INTRODUCTION

We came, 1200 strong, all ages, two generations of Japanese-Americans, to the site where those over 50 years of age spent an unforgettable experience. On March 17-18, 1985, we came to the Gila River Relocation Center camp site at Bugg and Canal in a variety of emotional states - remembrance, some willingness to forget that bitterness of 50-plus years past, some reluctance to forget that bitterness, some anxious hope of meeting people from our youth, some great sense of pride that we lived through a desperate, depressing experience.



# Introduction





Introduction



## INTRODUCTION

We came, 1200 strong, all ages, four generations of Japanese Americans, to the site where those over 50 years of age spent an unforgettable experience. On March 17-19, 1995, we came to the Gila River Relocation Center camp sites at Butte and Canal in a variety of emotional states - remembrance, some willingness to forget that bitterness of 50-plus years past, some reluctance to forget that bitterness, some anxious hope of meeting people from our youth, some small sense of pride that we lived through a desperate, depressing experience.



Former internees gather around memorial at Gila River war camp in the Arizona desert. Event marked the 50th anniversary of camp's closing.

Some - the younger than 50 crowd - came to see where parents and uncles and aunts and grandparents were placed by a government, "egged on" by Americans hysterical of a possible war-time enemy in their midst or by greed at the opportunity of getting rid of business people and growers whose success was now available to them. Some even came to see where they were born. These visitors to the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Gila River camps knew about the camp experience from what their parents or friends told them. They wanted to see what kind of God-forsaken place, the description given to the area, Butte and Canal camps were.





In 1942 when the Japanese Americans evacuated by Executive Order 9066 began to arrive in Butte and Canal camps, we came in a variety of emotional states - fear at not knowing what we were facing, despair at leaving comfortable homes and being dumped in stark, wooden barracks in rooms about 20' x 20' with nothing but cots, each room to house a family; anger at this treatment by a government and a people suddenly turned hostile; bitter that the only reason we could understand for this treatment was that we were Japanese in ancestry but Germans and Italians were not being thrust into camps too.



The difference in feeling between 1942 and 1995 was distinctive because, in the five decades between these two years, the people who were so encamped fought mightily to maintain their character; to overcome barren conditions, elemental facilities, and incursions of family life from having to share block toilets, bathing facilities and mess halls; and to endure unbearable heat and suffocating desert winds. With renewed strength we went into post-war lives, able to suffer and survive and succeed. Now we returned to see where we spent a year or two or three of our youth, to reminisce, perhaps to get over subtle, long suffering emotions, and to see friends made through sharing a bitter experience.

We came, too, to pay our respects to those people who, in the bitter irony of serving a nation that had incarcerated them in such places as Butte and Canal camps, had given their lives fighting the real enemy. The monument recognizes the men who fought in foreign lands, faced the enemy, and sacrificed their lives for our freedom and our reputations as true Americans who felt we had to prove our loyalty and citizenship.

We remember, too, the more than a thousand young men who served in the military, going from one kind of government camp to another, often with similar misgivings at what they were to face, but in the long run surviving and having proving their loyalty and citizenship.

We also remembered the family and friends who are here only in memory and spirit, who in the half-century since Butte and Canal camps were closed have passed away. They shared the experience those many years ago. They share our reunion in tender memories.



## HISTORY OF INDIANS

### GRANDER RIVER REGION

All rivers flowed to the sea beginning from the east and were called mountains of New Mexico is what is known to us as the San of Gila. From these mountains the river waters moved downward through mountain passes, plains and low hills to the rich fertile fields of Arizona.

These waters supplied drink for the various Indian life - the deer, buffalo, rabbit, dove, quail and bright colored birds throughout the Grander valley, never stopping until they reached and merged with the Colorado River, into the Sea of Cortez.

### BUT 100 YEARS AGO THE RIVER DIED

Archaeologists cannot explain the fact that the Indians who lived here were so advanced, moving slowly toward the water, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a great group, the IROQUOIS, which in the 17th century was a great nation. They were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land. (Note: The Indians in this region were called "PAPAGO" and "MARICOPPA".)

VENTANA CAVE, known to the Indians as "The Cave of the Winds", was a great place where the Indians lived. It was a great place where the Indians lived, and it was a great place where the Indians lived.

THE RIVER DIED. The river died, and the Indians who lived here were so advanced that they were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land.

Excavations show that the Indians who lived here were so advanced that they were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land.

Many other Indians lived here, and they were so advanced that they were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land.

By 17th century the Indians who lived here were so advanced that they were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land.

PAPAGO Indians occupied a large area of land in the extreme south central part of Arizona. In a land where no other Indians lived, they lived, and they were so advanced that they were able to build a great canal to carry water into the desert land, but they were so advanced that they were able to build a civilization of growing food and making the best use of the land.



# Gila River Indian Reservation







## HISTORY OF INDIANS

### GILA RIVER IN THE BEGINNING

All rivers flowed to the sea beginning from the rain and snow capped mountains of New Mexico to what is known to us as the Sea of Cortez. From three streams to one river, waters moved westward through mountain passes, plateau farm land, the rich fertile fields of Arizona.

These waters supplied drink for the various animal life - the deer, buffalo, rabbits desert animals and bright colored birds throughout the Sonora desert, never stopping until they reached and merged with the Colorado River, into the Sea of Cortez.

### BUT 100 YEARS AGO THE RIVER DIED

Archaeologists cannot pinpoint the date that the earliest man crossed from Asia into the Americas, moving slowly toward the warm-moist land watered by the Gila River, but with excavations of caves, remains of extinct animals and other artifacts, it is a known fact that over 12,000 years ago, a tribal group, the HOHOKAM, settled in the Gila basin and began to systematically bring about a series of deep canals to carry water into cultivated farm lands. This irrigation system was one of the creations of a civilization of growing food by cultivating the land rather than merely picking up what nature offered. (Note: Hohokam in Pima means "those who have gone before.")

**VENTANA CAVE** sheltered by overhanging rock was the kingdom of the warriors who daily stalked great **ICE AGE BEASTS**, which included the mastadon, bison, camel, horse, and even the giant sloth.

**THE HOHOKAM** people survived the Arizona land as the region became drier. They learned to accept the environment and created walled structures surrounding their groups of housing. An archaeological site called Snaketown was discovered which showed the structure of buildings of typical houses in one of three early Snaketown prehistoric periods.

Excavations show that the classic period (1150 to 1450 A.D.) walled villages were built throughout the Gila basin to house and feed a population of 50 - 60,000 people. This period indicates the intricate use of irrigation canals, the use of clay pottery, the crafts of ornamental shell jewelry.

Many styles, decoration and use of color had their origin in what known to us as Mexico. The patterns and designs with colorful forms were clearly shown in the works of art found in their pottery, found in excavations.

By 1450 A.D. the Hohokam and their traditions faded away, why and how no one really knows. However by 1530 A.D. the Spaniards recorded encounters with **PIMANS** in the Northern Mexican lands they called **PIMERIAS**, the home of today's Papago and Pima Indians.

**PAPAGO** Indians inhabited a desert of wilderness hundred of miles in the extreme south central part of Arizona. In a land where no rivers ran and the summer heat, thorny bushes, sting and bites of insects were suffered, this group of people lived in villages in peace and harmony.



## PIMA

The village scene reconstructed here is based upon a sketch by an early American traveler to the Gila Basin. He, too, entered the doomed wood and earth house, called KIH, where arrow weed lay on a frame of flexible willow limbs curved inward and secured to mesquite beams. Earth along the house side and top kept out rain and allowed cool breezes to pass.

In brush wind break enclosures women prepared food and kept their cooking tools, stone grinders, wooden trays, storage jars and baskets.

Until the late 19th century drought, vegetable fields were irrigated by tapping Gila River waters, much as their Hohokam ancestors had done. After the Spaniards introduced new technologies to the area, Pimas turned their land into vast fields of wheat, harvesting such a bounty that the Gila Basin became known as the "desert bread basket".





## PAPAGO

In a land where no rivers run and the summer sky turns white with heat; in a land of thorns, stings and bites, there lived a people who considered themselves wealthy.

The Tohono O' odham, more generally known as the Papago, inhabited a desert wilderness of hundreds of miles in the extreme south central part of Arizona. The sacred peak of Baboquivari marks the Papago heartland.

Papago wealth came from the quality of personal relationships carried out in villages set within rugged desert beauty. Sounds of work - chopping wood, preparing dinners, creaking wagon wheels hauling supplies - echoed about the well-tended communities. People admired politeness and cordial manners, reserving the highest respect for senior citizens. Villagers of all ages earned prestige by hard work and kindness.

Each village had its ceremonial house wherein men met to set work schedules and to solve village problems. These were most often handled by taking a consensus of those present to arrive at a solution.





## APACHE

Scientists have come to understand Apache origins by studying their language called Athapascan.

Linguists have determined that not more than three thousand years ago, a Sino-Tibetan type people crossed the icy waters of the Bering Strait, settling in northern Canada to hunt large game such as moose and elk.

One thousand years ago, groups of these hunters left the region around Lake Athapasca to migrate south, some into the coastal areas of California and Washington. Other hunter bands drifted to New Mexico and Arizona. Puebloans identified these nomadic people as Apache - "Enemy."

In the two Arizona Apache tribes - San Carlos and White Mountain - traditional respect for family, ceremony and nature continues to be practiced.





## MARICOPA

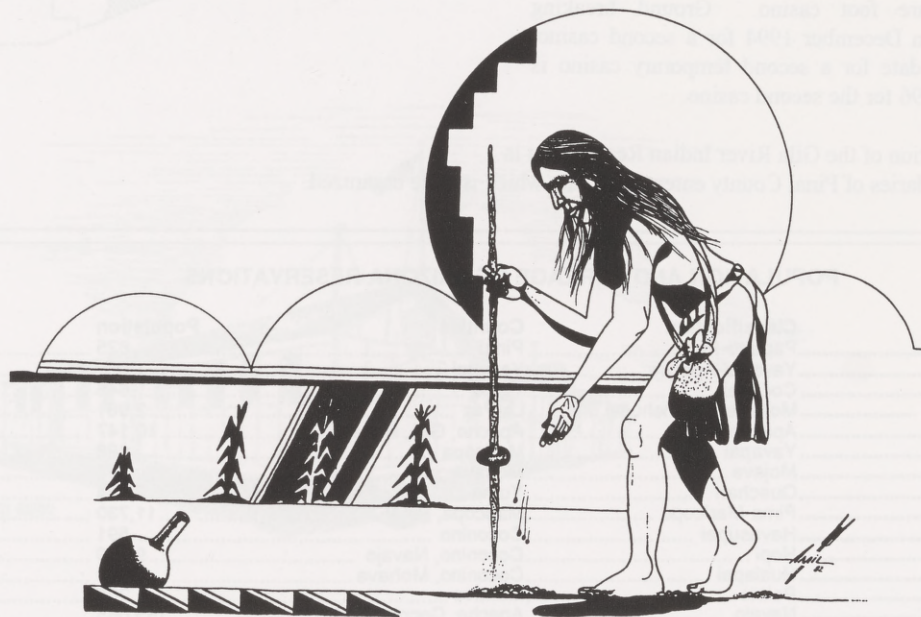
Where the Colorado River meets the Sea of Cortez, there lived five bands of Yuman speaking Indians. Time and again, they were attacked by a warring Yuma tribe. The bands joined together and moved into open desert lands east of the Colorado River, and called themselves "Pee Posh" - The People.

An artistic tradition practiced by Indians of that region included making clay figurines with tattoo and body paint markings which represented tribal body decoration.

In the 1840's, Pimas offered these tall, strong Pee Posh wanderers a place of protected peace where the Gila and Salt Rivers come together, a land of fertile soil.

These two people, speaking different languages, became allies against mutual enemies: Apaches to the east and Yumas to the West.

And, as did their hosts, the new Gila Basin residents became farmers who supplied food to American travelers and soldiers.





## HISTORY OF GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

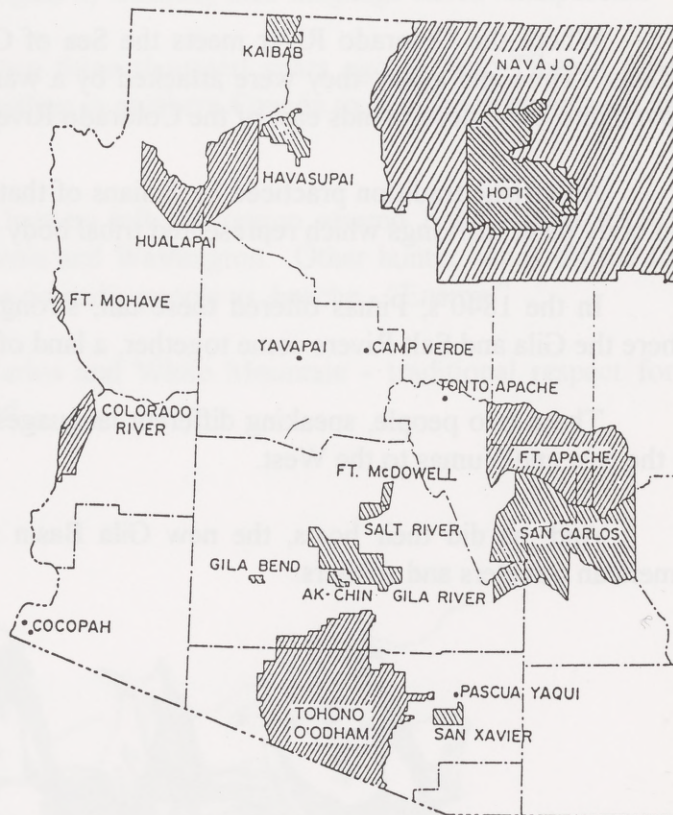
The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is composed of two tribes, the Pima and Maricopa.

It is located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona, south of Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler. The surrounding terrain is characterized by gently sloping hills and free-standing buttes framed by scenic mountain ranges. The reservation's desert topography varies from elevation of 935 to 1,450 feet. Irrigated lands are concentrated between 1,000 and 1,500 feet above sea level. The Gila River Indian Community's (GRIC) width along its historic Gila River axis varies from five to 22 miles. Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, a four-story pueblo built by the Hohokam Indians in the 13th century, lies just southeast of the Reservation.

Other economic activities occurring on the Gila River reservation include gravel; a \$94 million diversified farming industry which includes citrus, olives, ginning, hay/alfalfa, etc.; a billboard business; and established businesses such as the Gila River Care Center, a raceway for hot rods; hydroplane raceway, Compton Terrace (outdoor amphitheater), markets; and arts & crafts.

**Gaming.** The Gila River Indian Community adopted Ordinance No. GR-01-94 which authorized and regulates gaming activities on their reservation. On June 24, 1994 they opened a 8,500 square foot casino. Ground breaking ceremonies were held in December 1994 for a second casino. The projected opening date for a second temporary casino is April 1995 and April 1996 for the second casino.

**Other.** A portion of the Gila River Indian Reservation is located within the boundaries of Pinal County enterprise zone, which is state organized.



### POPULATION AND ACREAGE OF ARIZONA RESERVATIONS

Reservation	Classification	Counties	Population	Acreage
Ak-Chin	Papago-Pima	Pinal	625	21,840
Camp Verde	Yavapai-Apache	Yavapai	1,092	653
Cocopah	Cocopah	Yuma	646	6,009
Colorado River	Mohave-Chemehuevi	La Paz	2,981	269,918 *
Fort Apache	Apache	Apache, Gila, Navajo	10,147	1,664,984
Fort McDowell	Yavapai	Maricopa	688	24,680
Fort Mojave	Mojave	Mohave	836	22,820 **
Fort Yuma	Quechan	Yuma	2,234	43,581 *
Gila River	Pima-Maricopa	Maricopa, Pinal	11,730	372,000
Havasupai	Havasupai	Coconino	591	188,077
Hopi	Hopi	Coconino, Navajo	9,199	1,561,213
Hualapai	Hualapai	Coconino, Mohave	1,498	992,463
Kaibab-Paiute	Paiute	Mohave	205	120,827
Navajo	Navajo	Apache, Coconino, Navajo	165,065	14,775,068 ***
Pascua-Yaqui	Pascua-Yaqui	Pima	6,227	895
Salt River	Pima-Maricopa	Maricopa	4,735	55,807
San Carlos	Apache	Gila, Graham	10,120	1,826,541
Tohono O'odham	Tohono O'odham	Maricopa, Pinal, Pima	17,261	2,846,372
Tonto Apache	Tonto Apache	Gila	92	85
Yavapai-Prescott	Yavapai	Yavapai	115	1,399
<b>Total</b>			<b>246,087</b>	<b>24,795,232</b>

Figures supplied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix Area Office

\* Includes Arizona and California

\*\* Includes Arizona, California and Nevada

\*\*\* Includes Arizona, Utah and New Mexico

Source: Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs











**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9066**

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**

**Presidio of San Francisco, California**

**April 1, 1942**

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**Living in the Following Area:**

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

**The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Reception Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions received at the Civil Control Station.

The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

No contraband items as described in paragraph 6, Public Proclamation No. 3, Headquarters Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, dated March 24, 1942, will be carried.

3. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage at the sole risk of the owner of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.

4. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Reception Center. Private means of transportation will not be utilized. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

**Go to the Civil Control Station at 1701 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California, between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942, to receive further instructions.**

J. L. DeWITT  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding



## EVACUATION



Evacuees ready for departure to assembly center.

On December 7, 1942, Pearl Harbor was bombed by aircraft of the Japanese Imperial Navy.

Immediately, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced to the world that the United States declared war on Japan.

Under the authorization of local police and the FBI, within 48 hours, 1291 persons of Japanese ancestry were rounded up and detained in enemy alien concentration camps without a formal charge. Most of these internees were made up of language teachers, religious ministers and leaders of Japanese cultural activities, and they spent the war years behind barbed wire camps.

Hysteria, war nerves and poor judgement among our leaders brought about discrimination and anti-Japanese feelings.



## **FACT SHEET: INCARCERATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS**

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which gave to the Secretary of War and the military commanders the power to exclude any and all persons, citizens and aliens, from designated areas in order to provide security against sabotage, espionage and fifth column activity. Shortly thereafter, all American citizens of Japanese descent were prohibited from living, working or traveling on the West Coast of the United States. The same prohibition applied to the generation of Japanese immigrants who, pursuant to federal law, despite long residence in the United States, were not permitted to become American citizens.

American citizens and their alien parents were removed by the Army, first to "assembly centers" - temporary quarters at racetracks and fairgrounds - and then to "relocation centers" - bleak barracks camps in desolate areas of the West. The camps were surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by military police. Departure was permitted only after a loyalty review in consultation with the military, by the War Relocation Authority. Many of those removed from the West Coast were eventually allowed to leave the camps to join the Army, go to college outside the West Coast or to whatever private employment was available.



Volunteers, designated by "staff" arm bands, worked many hours performing important duties. Some eventually became leaders in their respective fields.



This policy of exclusion, removal and detention was executed against 120,000 people without individual review, and exclusion was continued virtually without regard for their demonstrated loyalty to the United States.

All this was done despite the fact that not a single documented incidence of espionage, sabotage or fifth column activity was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by a resident Japanese alien on the West Coast.

The war years for many were spent behind barbed wire; and for those who were released, the prohibition against returning to their homes and occupations on the West Coast was not lifted until December 1944.

No mass exclusion from any part of the country or detention was ordered against American citizens of German or Italian descent. Official actions against enemy aliens of other nationalities were much more individualized and selective than those imposed on the ethnic Japanese.



Baggage stacked in front of the Episcopal Church on California street in Pasadena.

Most evacuees had only a few weeks to prepare for induction into the assembly centers. These were frantic and trying times for Japanese Americans. In a matter of weeks, lifetime possessions had to be either disposed of or packed to be taken to camp. Homes, businesses, cars, etc., were sold at a fraction of the value to buyers who could name their own price. Farm crops were left behind in the fields to be harvested by others.

The stacks of baggage essentially represent the whole worldly possession of an evacuee going into camp. Many suitcases and trunks were the same ones brought over by the Issei parents when they first came to America from Japan.



## **ASSEMBLY CENTERS**

So hasty was the removal of Japanese from their homes that people living in Terminal Island (San Pedro) were given a 24 hour notice to move or be moved to the camp called Manzanar or to temporary quarters at Santa Anita Race Track.

The make-shift living quarters in assembly centers were horse stables of the various race tracks or fairgrounds and became the housing for the evacuees from many cities on the West Coast.

The following assembly centers sent most of the internees to Gila.

### **POMONA ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Location: Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, Pomona, CA.

### **SANTA ANITA ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Location: Santa Anita Race Track, Arcadia, CA.

### **FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA.

### **TULARE ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Location: Tulare Fairgrounds, Tulare, CA.

### **TURLOCK ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Location: Turlock Fairgrounds, Turlock, CA.



Many famous race horses were moved out of the elaborate quarters, and facilities completely sanitized to provide facilities for evacuation.  
Santa Anita Assembly Center





The famous "Santa Anita Penthouse." Decorated effects were gathered from scrap piles; earth was carried in buckets and garden started on the macadam finish of the former parking lot.  
Santa Anita Assembly Center



Dining in the mess hall.



### RELOCATION CENTERS

On March 18, 1942, the War Relocation Authority (WRA) was established and quietly, as the evacuees were housed in assembly centers, the Wartime Civilian Control Administration was established as an opening agency under the supervision of Civil Affairs of the Western Defense Command and the Fourth Army. The construction of the 10 relocation centers began. Gila River Relocation Center was among the ten.



**"GOH" tournament!**

### GILA RELOCATION CENTER

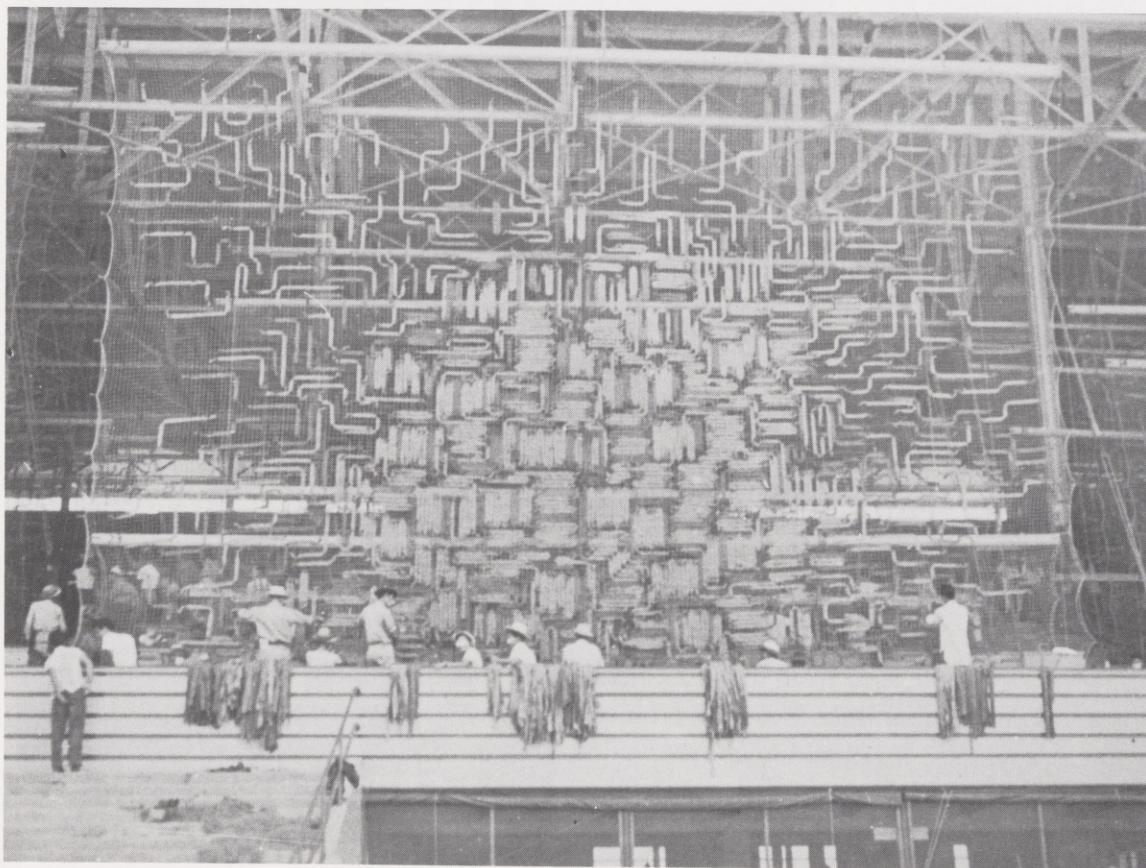
The camp consisted to two parts; Canal, Camp I, and Butte, Camp II.

The property was leased from the Pima Indian Reservation without formal consent (Consent was not granted until the U.S. Government had been in construction for almost four months.) On the 17,000 acre Pima Indian reservation land, the 15,655 internees were detained beginning on July 20, 1942, and some were not released until November 10, 1945, when the camp was closed.





Second grade class.



Camouflage nets for the Army.



## CAMP DATA

### SUMMARY OF GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER FINAL ACCOUNTABILITY ROSTER NOVEMBER 10, 1945

(Source: National Archives)

Type of Original Admission and Assignmant

Total Custody .....	16,655
(Includes both Butte and Canal Camps)	
Admitted to center:	
From WCCA .....	(13,354)
Assembly Center .....	10,290
Fresno .....	176
Pinedale .....	42
Pomona .....	1
Portland .....	5
Pyallup .....	4
Santa Anita .....	1,294
Stockton .....	220
Tanforan .....	31
Tulare .....	4,951
Turlock .....	3,566
Direct Evacuation .....	2,935
Other .....	129
From Hawaii .....	3
From Department of Justice	
Internment and Detention .....	140
Voluntary Resident .....	18
Births .....	129
Transfers from Centers .....	2,412
Central Utah .....	21
Colorado River .....	103
Granada .....	4
Heart Mountain .....	48
Jerome .....	2,076
Manzanar .....	53
Rohwer .....	46
Tule Lake .....	61
Random .....	66



## ACTIVITIES IN CAMP

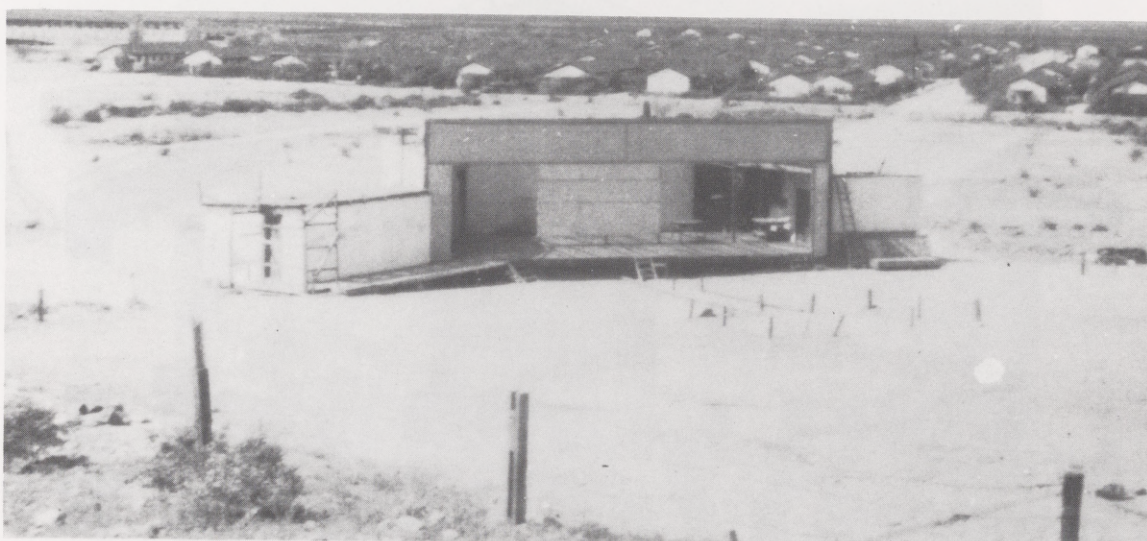


Canal Camp 1943 "Harvest Festival" Queen, Katie Yasumoto (middle), with her court (L-R) Yuri Matsuoka, Chiye Yoshikawa, Toki Takemoto and Kimi Ryono.



Buddhist Church at Butte Block 63. Hanamatsuri services April 8, 1943. Various religious groups had their own places of worship in recreation halls. Religious affiliation was found to be about 55% Buddhists, 27.5% Christians and 17.5% undesignated.





The amphitheater was the site for talent shows, school assemblies, graduation ceremonies and other special occasions. But the fondest memories are of the weekly movies we watched while sitting on blankets on warm summer nights under a desert heaven full of stars as far as the eye could see.



Baseball was the most popular sport for both participants and spectators. In Butte camp, under the guidance of the "Baseball Czar", Mr. Zenimura of Fresno, a field was carved out of the desert adjacent to Block 28. Teams representing old home towns and clubs flourished with games with Canal Camp and nearby towns. The picture above shows Tak Abo swinging for a hit.





Butte Judo Dojo under the leadership of Mr. Takusagawa (middle) was a highly competitive youth activity.



The Butte Boy Scout troop participated in many camp parades and ceremonies.





**The Camp Newspaper, The Gila News-Courier, Staff of Early 1943**

**Back Row:** Morigusu Kawamoto, Min Kinoshita, Mrs. Ethel Fleming (Reports Officer), Ken Nakano, Wat Takeshita, Oscar Otsuki, Jiro Aratani, James Nakamura (English Editor).

**Middle Row:** (Unknown), Mr. Fujishige, Yoriyuki Sato (Japanese Editor), Takashi Fukuda, George Shingu, Tadashi Masumoto.

**Front Row:** Michiko Yamamoto, Joy Nozaki, Yasuko Tsutsumida, Alice Omura, Kimi Kino, Peggy Araki, Jessica Hoshino.

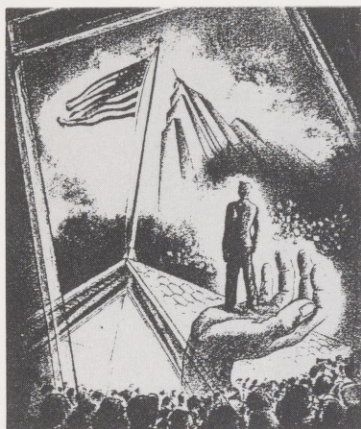


**Rivers, Arizona Post Office**

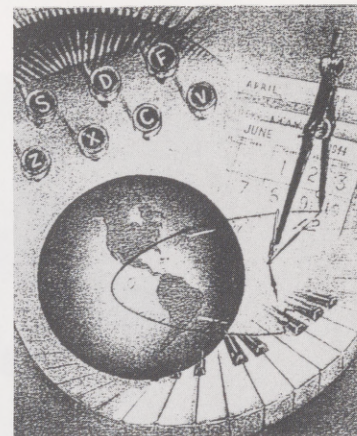
In October of 1942, Gila camp officially became known as Rivers, Arizona, the largest city, fourth in Arizona. From August 1942 through May 1943, the post office handled more than half a million dollars in stamps, money orders and C.O.D.'s.



# SCHOOL DAYS



ADMINISTRATION



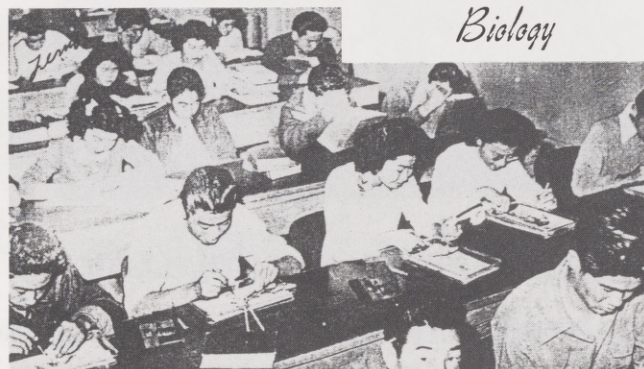
FACULTY



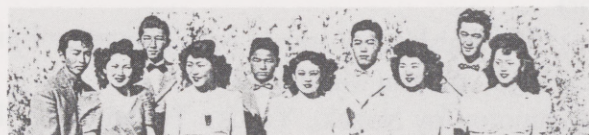
MABEL SHELTON



GEORGE NIKAIÐO



*Biology*



STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

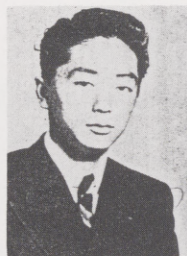


*Honor Society*

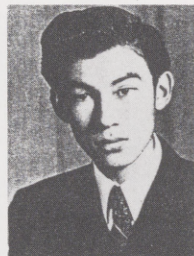
ROW I—LEFT TO RIGHT: HARUKO TAKEMAYA, MIDORI WADA, KIMI NAGATA, NOBUKO EMOTO, MAS HIGA, FRANCES OGASAWARA, YOSHI NAKAMURA, MARY MATSUZAWA.  
ROW II—LEFT TO RIGHT: ILA SATO, LILY MATSUURA, MICHIKO NISHIURA, MARY SHIMOTO, LOIS KANISAKA, MITSIE KOTAMA, FUMI KURATANI, FRANCES YANOGINUMA, SACHI ISHI, MITSUMI TANIGUCHI.  
ROW III—LEFT TO RIGHT: YANIE WATANABE, TAKASHI TERAMAYE, OSCAR INOUE, SHOJI SADAQ, HIDEO ITABASHI, ADDITIONAL MEMBER, FUSAO ARAI.



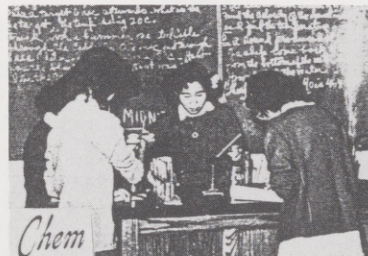
OSCAR PHILLIPS



JIM ARAKI



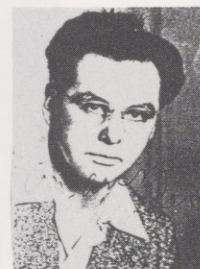
YOSHIO MIGAKI



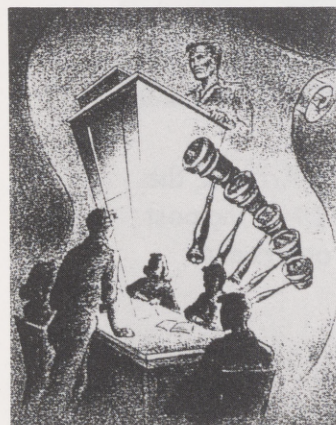
*Chem*



JANE ECKENSTEIN



MARCOS de LEON

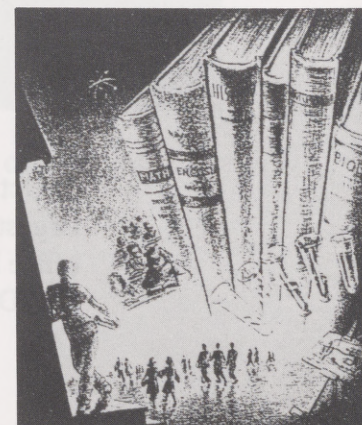


ORGANIZATIONS



*Royal Thespians*

ROW I—LEFT TO RIGHT—SHINOBU YAMAMOTO, NOBUKO EMOTO, MIA OGAWA.  
ROW II—LEFT TO RIGHT—YANIE WATANABE, ALICE NOGUCHI, YOSHIYE NAKAMURA, MITCH KADOWAKI, JEAN OTANI, MASAKO HIGA.  
ROW III—LEFT TO RIGHT—MARY MATSUZAWA, ROBERT FUYUUME, GEORGE SHINGU, SHOICHI HOTTA, HOOVER HIROTA, OSCAR INOUE, MR. KAWAMOTO, GRACE TOKUYAMA.



STUDENTS





CAMPUS LIFE



MUSIC MAKERS

ROW I—LEFT TO RIGHT—TAK OGINO, HARUO HAYASHI, BEN TAMAKI, JIM ARAKI.  
ROW II—LEFT TO RIGHT—PAUL SUZUKI, ICHIRO INO, GEORGE KIKUCHI, YOSHIMURA ARAKI, YOSHIO MIGAKI, MITSUGI KAWAMOTO.



SPORTS

BASKETBALL CHAMPS



ROW I—LEFT TO RIGHT—TERUKO OKUNO, DOROTHY KUWAHARA, HELEN FUKUTAKI, MARY KANETOMO, FRANCES SUZUKI, ATSUKO EMOTO.  
ROW II—LEFT TO RIGHT—HARUKO TAKEYAMA, MIDORI WADA, HATSUMI UYEYAMA, YOSHIKO MATSUMOTO, MUTSUO NAKAHARA, SHIZU HOTTA.

RAMBLERS FOOTBALL



ROW I—LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE KATA, WILLIE OSADA, YOSH TERAZAWA, HODDER HIROTO.  
ROW II—LEFT TO RIGHT: SUSUO YAMASHIRO, KEN TASHIRO, SHOICHI HOTTA, YOSHIMARU SHIMASAKI, AKI HIROTA (COACH).  
ROW III—LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE TSUNODA, RALPH OSADA, SHOSAN SHIMASAKI, TAKESHI HAMAMOTO.



HOWARD HORII



SHIZUKO NAKAMURA



BETTE SHIKATA  
CAMPUS CO-ED



MICKEY KAWAKAMI  
CAMPUS WOLF







### Legal Assistance

The Legal Aid Office handled a wide variety of evacuees' personal legal problems, including tax problems, insurance claims, estates, wills, social security, domestic relations and property problems. The Project Attorney's Office personnel is pictured on the left.

**Top L-R:** James H. Terry (Project Attorney), Shim Hiraoka (attorney), Masao Kanemoto (attorney), George Miura (interpreter).

**Bottom L-R:** Matilda Rottach (secretary), Chiyoko Tsukahara Hiraoka (secretary), Katherine Tanaka (secretary).

### The First Lady

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt visited Gila Camp in 1943. She was greeted by Kim Nagano, student body president, and John Tachihara while touring the high school.







The Butte Co-op (canteen) group having a picnic (1943)



The motor pool garage kept the cars and trucks running in spite of parts shortages.



## AGRICULTURE

Gila River Relocation farms produced crops which were distributed to all 10 relocation centers throughout the United States. The chief crops consisted of cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon, corn, beans, tomatoes, beets, carrots, cucumbers, and squash. Alfalfa fields were cultivated into vegetable growing crops which quickly grew lettuce, daikon (radish), spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and onions. Between September 1942 and May 1943, Gila River Relocation harvested 2805 tons of vegetables of which 1464 tons were consumed by its own people and 1341 tons (84 cars) were shipped to other relocation centers. Nearby army camps enjoyed 20,000 pounds of watermelon for their consumption on the Fourth of July. By 1943, the farms were producing barley, feed and other products to feed the livestock, cattle and hogs which became part of the agricultural program for the Gila River Relocation Center. The dairy, hog, and poultry farms and the raising of steers assured us of milk, pork and beans as well as providing us good vocational training for our livelihood.

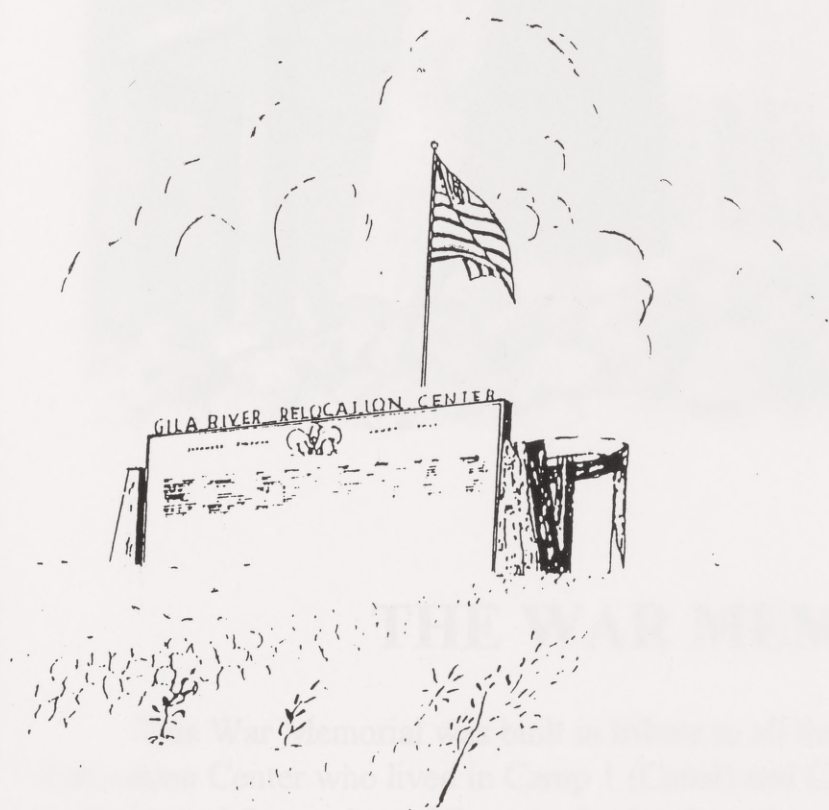


**Farming "Daikon"**



**Harvesting "Cucumbers"**





# *Military Service*



## WATER RESOURCES

The purpose of this special issue is to provide a forum for the presentation of research results and findings related to the management of water resources. The papers in this issue are intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in this field.

The papers in this issue are intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in this field. The papers are organized into three main sections: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Water Policy and Management.

The first section, Water Quality, contains four papers that discuss various aspects of water quality management, including the effects of land use changes, the role of water quality indicators, and the development of water quality models. The second section, Water Quantity, contains three papers that discuss the management of water resources, including the effects of climate change, the role of water resources planning, and the development of water resources models.

The third section, Water Policy and Management, contains two papers that discuss the development of water policy and the management of water resources. The first paper discusses the role of water policy in the management of water resources, and the second paper discusses the development of water policy.

The papers in this issue are intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in this field. The papers are organized into three main sections: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Water Policy and Management.



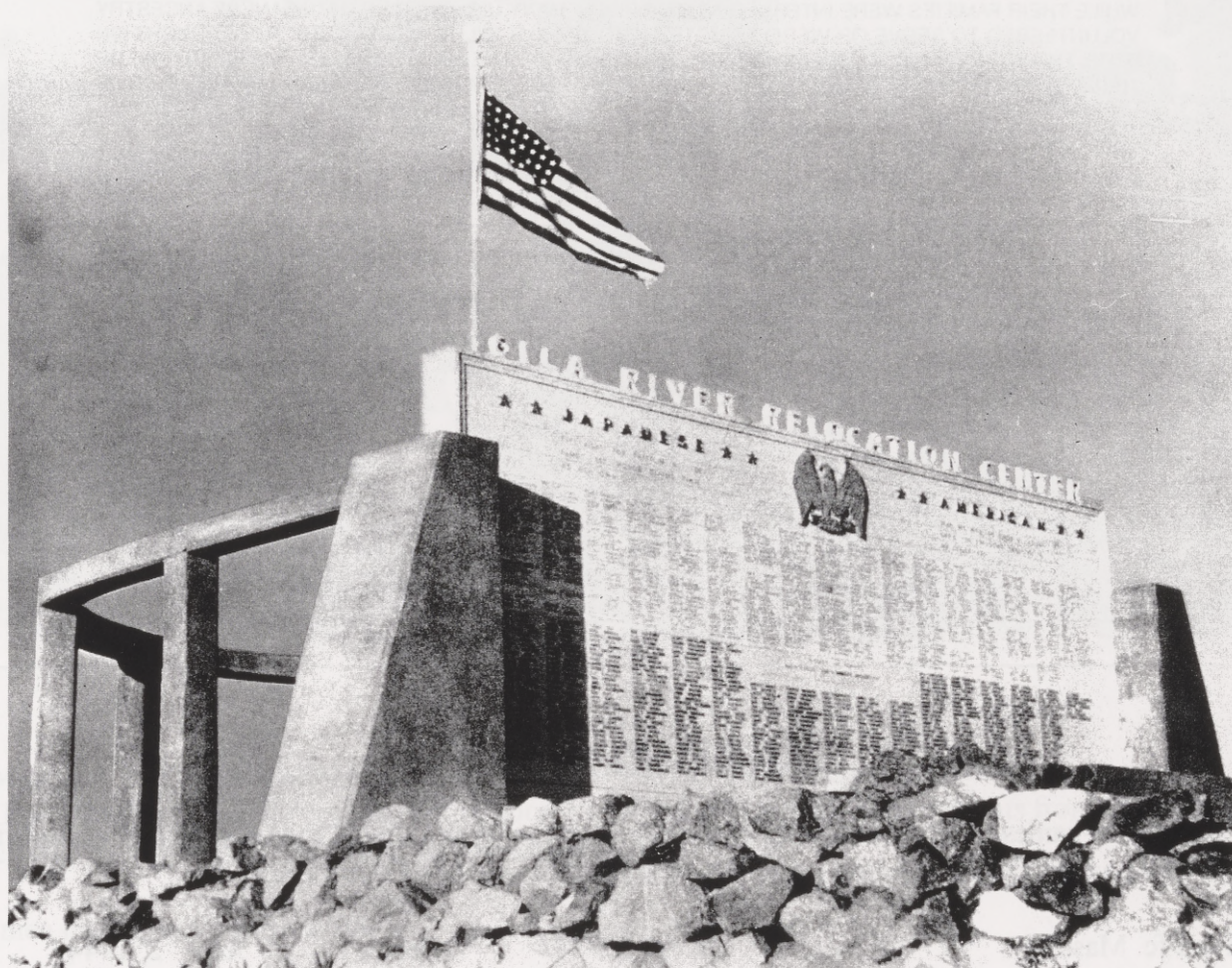
Figure 1. A map of the United States showing the location of the study area.

The purpose of this special issue is to provide a forum for the presentation of research results and findings related to the management of water resources. The papers in this issue are intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in this field.



Figure 2. A map of the United States showing the location of the study area.





## THE WAR MEMORIAL

This War Memorial was built in tribute to all the men and women from Gila River Relocation Center who lived in Camp I (Canal) and Camp II (Butte) who honorably served in the United States Armed Forces who fought and some who died in defense of this nation while their parents and families were unjustifiably interned behind barbed wire fences.

On November 11, 1943, the cornerstone was laid on the Honor Roll Monument, conceived and built by the residents to honor Rivers' sons and daughters in the United States armed services.



★ JAPANESE ★  
THEY FIGHT FOR FREEDOM NOT FOR FAME  
YET HONOR CLAIMS THEM AS HER OWN



★ AMERICANS ★  
UPON HIS WILL HE BINDS A RADIANT CHAIN  
FOR FREEDOM'S SAKE HE IS NO LONGER FREE

WHILE THEIR FAMILIES WERE INTERNED AT GILA RIVER, MANY U.S. CITIZENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE OR WERE INDUCTED INTO THE U.S. MILITARY SERVICES. THEY FOUGHT ON BOTH THE EUROPEAN AND PACIFIC FRONTS IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. SACRIFICES WERE MADE BY THESE AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS MONUMENT HONORS ALL THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY DURING WORLD WAR II. IT WAS ORIGINALLY DEDICATED ON APRIL 23, 1944 WITH 458 NAMES. WHEN THE CENTER WAS CLOSED IN NOVEMBER 1945 OVER 1,100 INTERNEES HAD ENTERED THE MILITARY SERVICES.

DIED SERVING IN THE U.S.A. MILITARY ARMED FORCES, RIVERS ARIZONA

THE FOLLOWING LIST NAMES SOME OF THE SERVICEMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES. SOME NAMES MAY BE UNLISTED BY CHOICE WHILE OTHERS WERE NOT LOCATED, BUT THEY ARE ALL EQUALLY HONORED.

ARAKI, Pfc. MASASHI  
FUJINO, S/Sgt. RUSSEL  
FURUKAWA, Pvt. TATSUMI  
HASHIMOTO, Sgt. JOHN  
HIYAMA, Pvt. YEIICHI  
ISHIDA, Pvt. MIN  
KANADA, Pvt. JAMES

KOJAKU, Pfc. SHAW  
KOMOTO, Pfc. NOBUO  
KONDO, Pvt. HENRY  
KUROKAWA, T/4 BEN  
MASUDA, S/Sgt. KAZUO  
MASUMOTO, Pfc. GEORGE  
NISHI, Pfc. TAKANORI  
OTA, Pvt. GEORGE

OTANI, S/Sgt. KAZUO  
SAKOHIRA, Pfc. TODD  
SHIKATA, T/3 GEORGE  
TAKASUGI, T/Sgt. KATSUMI  
TERAMOTO, Sgt. TOSHIAKI  
WAKITA, Pfc. MASUO  
YETO, Pvt. MITSURU  
YOSHIHARA, Pvt. MAKOTO

THIS MONUMENT WAS REDEDICATED WITH THIS PLAQUE ON MARCH 18, 1995

## KILLED IN ACTION

This is the list of names of all service persons who died serving in the United States Armed Forces during World War II whose families resided in Gila River during the years of 1942 through 1945.

ARAKI, Pfc. Masashi	21	27-7-D	Selma	June 2, 1944
NISHI, Pfc. Takanori	23	16-2-A	San Francisco	July 1944
SAKOHIRA, Pfc. Todd	21	Canal	Fowler	July 4, 1944
OTANI, S/Sgt Kazuo (DSC)	26	22-6-A	Visalia	July 15, 1944
KOJAKU, Pfc. Shaw	23	72-12-C	Gardena	July 17, 1944
OTA, Pvt. George	24	25-8-A	Parlier	July 15, 1944
MASUDA, S/Sgt. Kazuo (DSC)	24	49-11-D	Santa Ana	Aug. 27, 1944
MASUMOTO, Pfc. George H.	25	23-2-A	Selma	Oct. 16, 1944
KOMOTO, Pfc. Nobuo	23	23-13-D	Selma	Oct. 17, 1944
KONDO, Pvt. Henry M.	23	58-1-C	Pasadena	Oct. 19, 1944
FURUKAWA, Pvt. Tatsumi	24	21-11-C	Concord	Oct. 20, 1944
HASHIMOTO, Sgt. John		8-14-A	Fresno	Nov. 14, 1944
YOSHIHARA, Pvt. Makoto (Bronze Star)	24	47-2-B	Guadalupe	Dec. 22, 1944
KANADA, Pvt. James J.		21-3-B	Concord	Apr. 5, 1945
TAKASUGI, Katsumi L.		64-9-D	Ventura	Apr. 5, 1945
YETO, Pvt. Mitsuru Tom		51-7-C	Hunting. Bch.	Apr. 19, 1945
ISHIDA, Pvt. Min "Onion"		59-3-C	San Marino	Apr. 23, 1945
HIYAMA, Pvt. Yeiichi		Canal	Fowler	
FUJINO, S/Sgt. Takeo Russel		49-9-C	San Francisco	Aug. 7, 1945
KUROKAWA, Ben Satoshi	22	47-1-A	Guadalupe	Aug. 13, 1945
WAKITA, Pfc Masao		34-12-C	Santa Ana	Aug. 23, 1945

(DSC) Distinguished Service Cross





On May 24, 1943, these men were the first volunteers who were inducted into the armed forces from the Gila River Relocation Center. They left at noon by Santa Fe Trailways chartered bus from Phoenix, and traveled to the Armed Forces Induction Center in Salt Lake City.

The men identified are listed below.

1. Harry Sasaki	6-5-D
2. Kazuo Muto	3-7-A
3. Masashi Araki	27-7-E
4. Lyman Domoto	24-9-C
5. Mas Sugiyama	
6. Yoshimi Hiraoka	21-5-A
7. Fred Oshima	74-2-D
8. Harding Okazaki	66-5-A
9. James Mayeda	63-3-A
10. Seiya Tanaka	10-1-A
11. Hiroshi Takusagawa	54-11-A
12. Masaharu Okumura	64-7-C
13. Shaw Kojaku	72-12-C
14. Charles Mayeda	63-3-A
15. Tomio Ichikawa	63-11-D
16. James Togawa	45-13-B
17. Pius Yanagi	74-3-C
18. Wayne Kanemoto	10-4-B

19. Sam Yoshihara	5-3-D
20. Kenneth Sawada	65-5-A
21. Itsuo Kajiware	8-6-C
22. Frank Fujihara	27-1-C
23. George Okino	24-5-D
24. Kune Hisatomi	65-6-C
25. James Mukai	24-5-D

#### Unidentified in Picture

Fred Fujishige	27-9-A
Gene Hamaguchi	24-7-D
Masato Komoto	23-13-D
Nobuo Komoto	23-13-D
Henry Kondo	58-1-C
Shug Mizukami	44-8-A
Takigi Murakami	3-3-B
Johnny Yoshihara	52-14-A





**Draftees October 28, 1944 (from Gila News Courier)**

**BUTTE**

1. Masao Daimaru
2. Yoshio Furukawa
- 3B. Art Goto
- 4F. Richard Hiroto
5. Kunio Kawata
6. Takumi Komoto
- 7E. Yoshio Maeyama
8. Mitsuo Masuda
9. Yoshito Matsufuji
- 10A. Takashi Nagayama
- 11G. George Nikaido
- 12D. Takeo Sera

**CANAL**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Noboru Doi       | 11. Shoji Nakashima    |
| 2. Tadao Doi        | 12. Arthur Nishimura   |
| 3. Tom Hashimoto    | 13. George Nishioka    |
| 4. Kazuo Hiyama     | 14. George Ogiso       |
| 5C. Hideo Ishimine  | 15. Akira Shimizu      |
| 6. Kiyoshi Ishimoto | 16. Roy Torii          |
| 7. Ichiro Kataoka   | 17. Fred Tsujimoto     |
| 8. Jiro Kataoka     | 18. Naruyoshi Yamanaka |
| 9. Herbert Kuriyama | 19. Robert Yamazaki    |
| 10. George Kuroda   | 20. Chester Yokoyama   |

**GILA NEWS COURIER - Oct. 28, 1944**

" . . . . It seems that the little hungry kids pay the most terrible price for war - - a sight I'll never be able to forget. . . . "

**S/Sgt. Herbert M. Sasaki from somewhere in France**

**GILA NEWS COURIER - Nov. 15, 1944**

" . . . . I can assure you we won't let you down. We'll do everything in our power to meet your expectations even unto death. We're loyal Americans in every way -- You know it, some don't. We'll show those that don't believe in us that we're true Americans in every way . . . . "

**K.I.A. Oct. 19, 1944 somewhere in France**





### **MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**

The Military Intelligence Service Teams were in every campaign in the Pacific War. They were the ears and eyes of every combat command.

The men of the MIS were with the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force and were assigned to forces from Australia, Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, India, and China.

Their translation skills were used to decipher captured enemy documents such as maps, battle plans, orders, etc., which helped the Allies know what the enemy was planning and when. The capture and translation of such documents played an important role in many battles in the Pacific, including the invasions of the Philippines and Okinawa. Interpreter's skills were used to interrogate captured prisoners of war and to persuade cornered enemy units to surrender. All told, nearly 6000 Japanese Americans served in the Military Intelligence Service during and after World War II.

**"THE NISEI SAVED A MILLION LIVES AND SHORTENED THE WAR BY TWO YEARS."**

**Major General Charles Willoughby**

**"NEVER IN MILITARY HISTORY DID THE ARMY KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE ENEMY PRIOR TO ACTUAL ENGAGEMENT".**

**General Douglas MacArthur**





**General Mark Clark to General George Marshall after first engagement in battle**

"They . . . performed magnificently on the field of battle. I've never had such fine soldiers. Send me all you got."

"Their record in battle has been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. They have written a brilliant chapter in the history of American fighting men."

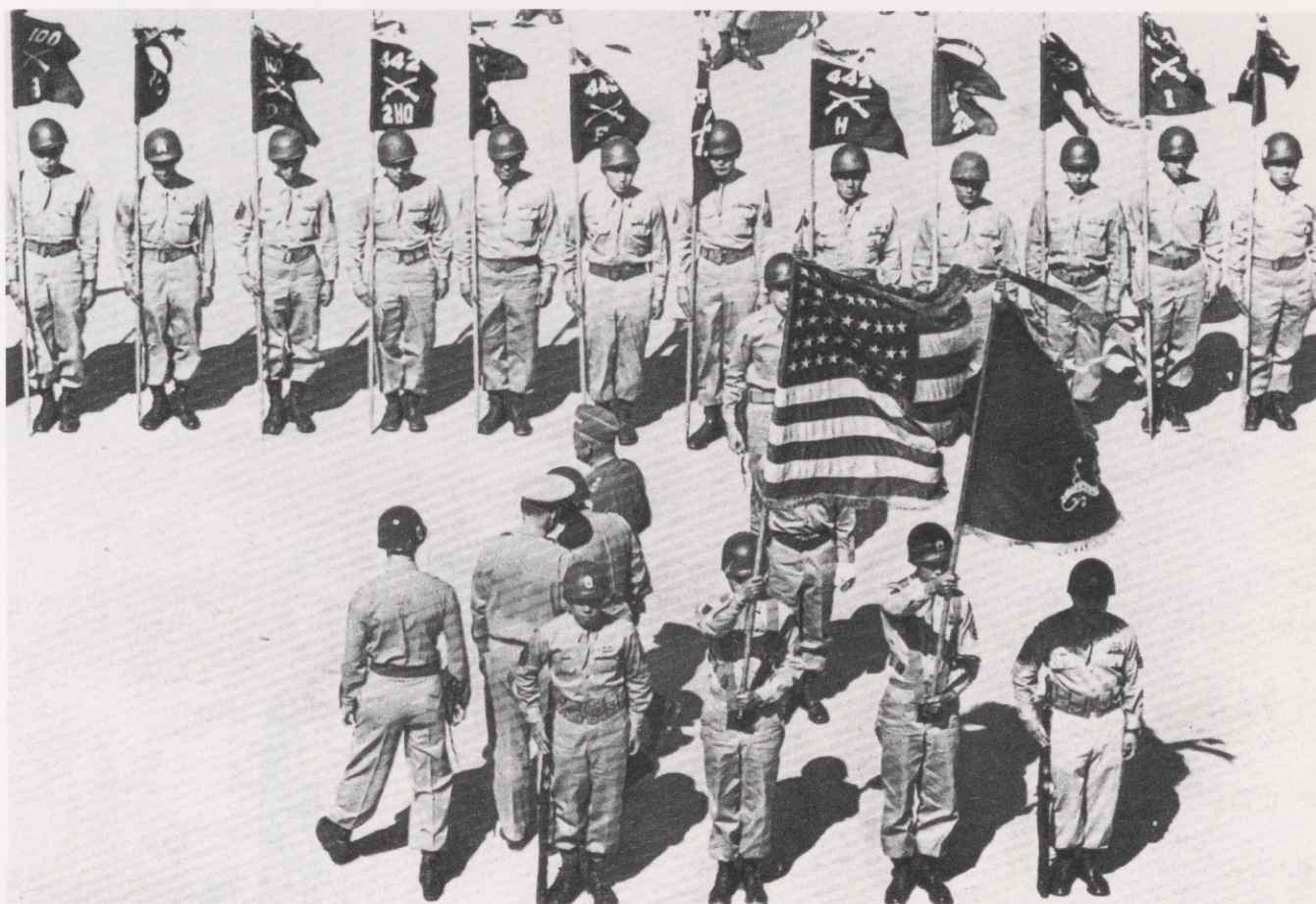
**Lt. Gen. Mark Clark**



"You fought for the free nations of the world . . . you fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice - and you won. Keep up the fight . . . continue to win - make this great Republic stand for what the Constitution says it stands for: The welfare of all the people, all the time.

**President Harry S. Truman**





January 20, 1943 saw the Army reverse its decision on prohibiting Niseis from entering the military service. Hundreds of Gilans and thousands of Niseis from the ten camps volunteered or were drafted to join the 100/442nd Regimental Combat Team, 522nd Artillery, Military Intelligence Service, or various other units. The 100/442nd is the most decorated unit in United States military history.

100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team

7	Major campaigns in Europe
7	Presidential Unit Citations
36	Army Commendations
87	Division Commendations
9,486	Casualties (Purple Heart)
18,143	Individual decorations, including:
1	Congressional Medal of Honor
52	Distinguished Service Crosses
1	Distinguished Service Medal
560	Silver Stars, with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters
22	Legion of Merit Medals
4,000	Bronze Stars, with 1200 Oak Leaf Clusters
15	Soldier's Medals
12	French Croix de Guerre with 2 Palms
2	Italian Crosses for Military Merit
2	Italian Medals for Military Valor





Italian Medal for Military Valor	2
Italian Crosses for Military Merit	2
French Croix de Guerre with 2 Bars	13
Soldier's Medal 2 (with citations)	13
Bronze Star with 1300 Oak Leaf Clusters	4,000
Legion of Merit	23
Silver Star with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters	200





## REDRESS

February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, excluding all persons, citizens and non-citizens from designated areas. Shortly, all American citizens of Japanese descent were prohibited from working or traveling on the West Coast of the United States. They were removed by the U.S. Army to "relocation centers" surrounded by barbed wire fences and guarded by military police. The ban was lifted in December, 1944.

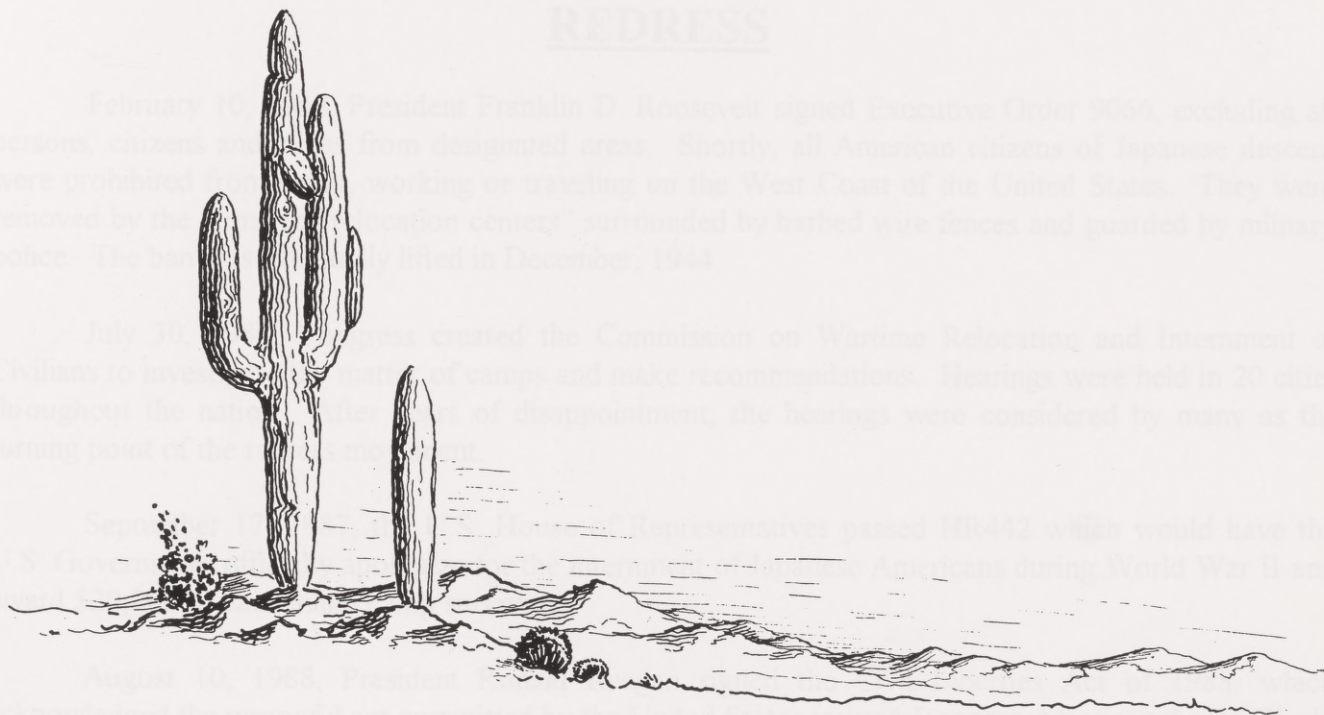
July 30, 1942, Congress created the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the camps and make recommendations. Hearings were held in 20 cities throughout the nation. In spite of the bitterness of disappointment, the hearings were considered by many as the turning point of the redress movement.

September 19, 1980, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR-412 which would have the U.S. Government apologize to Japanese-Americans during World War II and

August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which acknowledged the wrongs committed by the United States against Japanese-Americans during World War II. It included a letter of apology, a redress of \$20,000, and a \$1.25 billion education fund, among other provisions.

November 21, 1989, President George Bush signed the 1990 American Redress Payments Act, which provided for redress payments.

October 9, 1990, 107 year-old Reverend Mamoru Ito of Los Angeles was the first to receive his check for \$20,000 along with nine others in a ceremony in Washington D.C. Over 62,300 Japanese-Americans received their apology from the U.S. Government.



# Redress





Recovery





## REDRESS

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September 17, 1987, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR442 which would have the U.S. Government officially apologize for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and award \$20,000 to each living camp survivor.

August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which acknowledged the wrongful act committed by the United States toward Japanese American during World War II. It included a letter of apology, a redress of \$20,000, and a \$1.25 billion education fund, among other provisions.

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## ROCKY R RANCH

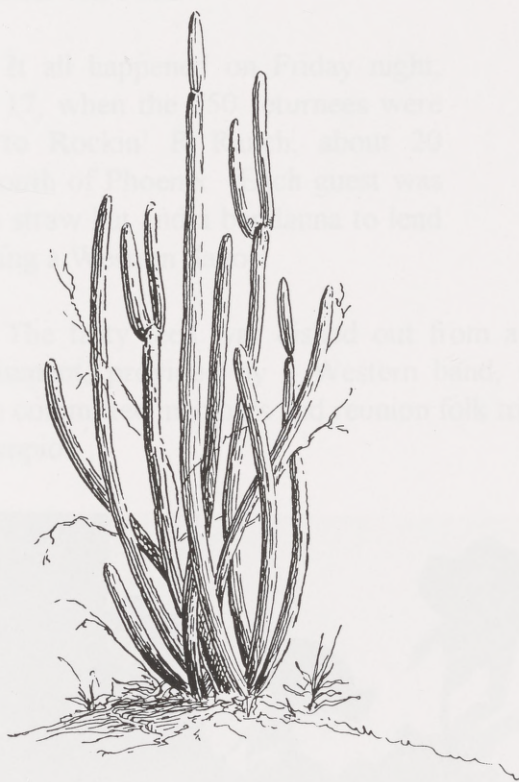
Take 750 majority urbanites, the vast number of them of Japanese descent, put them in straw hats and red bandannas, and what do you have? A crowd of Western folk, naturally.

Well, not quite. But you do have a crowd of Gila River reunion returnees looking out like folks and gals from the old West, enjoying a he-man's serving of authentic beef and chicken. And the men's were busy and the women's were busy too.

It all happened on Friday night, June 12, when the reunion was held at Rocky R Ranch. About 30 people were present and the night was a success.

Out from a chuck wagon - well, the men had - and followed by a crowd of folks, several vehicles and some trick horse riders. Several reunion folk tried their hand in the rope twirling, with Hank Sato judged.

It was generally agreed that Helen Mikami was also most adept. Of course that figure - a few yards from Hawaii, the western shore, I believe. She was one of the reunion folk.



# 50-Year Gila River Reunion





Gila River National Monument  
50-Year Reunion



## ROCKIN' R RANCH

Take 750 majority urbanites, the vast number of them of Japanese descent, put them in straw hats and red bandannas, and what do you have? A passel of Western folk, naturally.

Well, not quite. But you do have a crowd of Gila Reunion returnees making out like fellas and gals from the Old West, enjoying a he-man's serving of barbecue beef and chicken. And the fixin's were tasty and the shenanigans after dinner were fun.

It all happened on Friday night, March 17, when the 750 returnees were bused to Rockin' R Ranch, about 20 miles south of Phoenix. Each guest was given a straw hat and a bandanna to lend the outing a Western flavor.

The tasty feed was dished out from a chuck wagon - well, the mess hall - and followed by entertainment, provided by a Western band, several vocalists and some trick lasso twirlers. Several reunion committee members and reunion folk tried their hand in the rope twirling, with Hank Sato judged the champion.

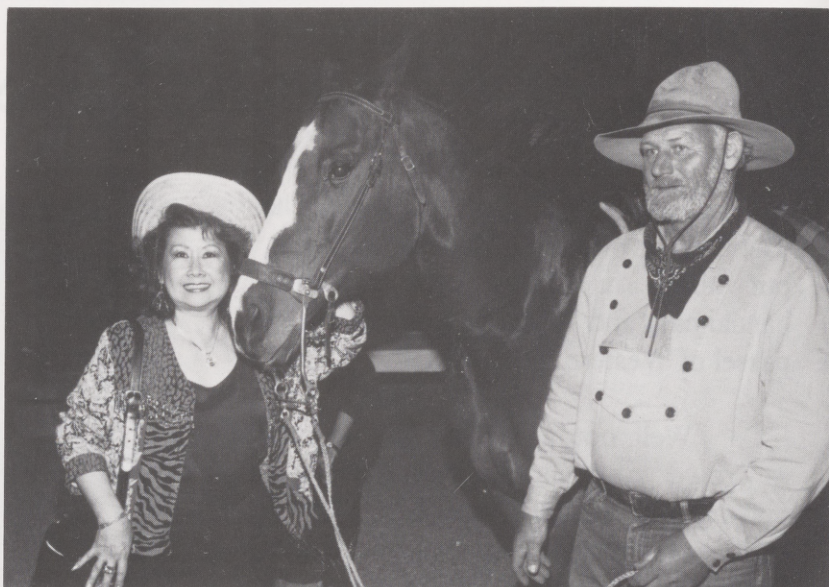


It was generally agreed that Helen Mishima was also most adept. Of course, that figures. Helen came from Hawaii, the western shore, I believe. Other amusements for the evening were panning for gold, with mixed results, horseback riding, and an old-fashioned "shoot-out" by professional cowboys. All in all, it was an evening of fun for everyone, all ages, from grandpa to the youngest little critters.





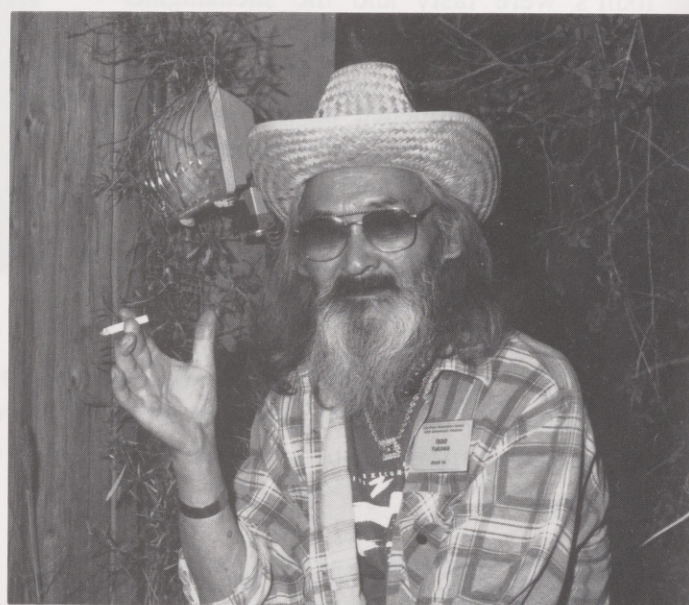
Greetings from Rockin' R Ranch



Christine Naito



Bill & Enid Yamamoto



Mountain Boy - Isao Yukawa



Bill Korhely, Sho Nomura, Kikkie Mori



Nobuko & Taeko Matsuda





Henry Nagahori, Jim Makino, Betty Taniguchi, Hank & Carol Sato, Ami Nagahori



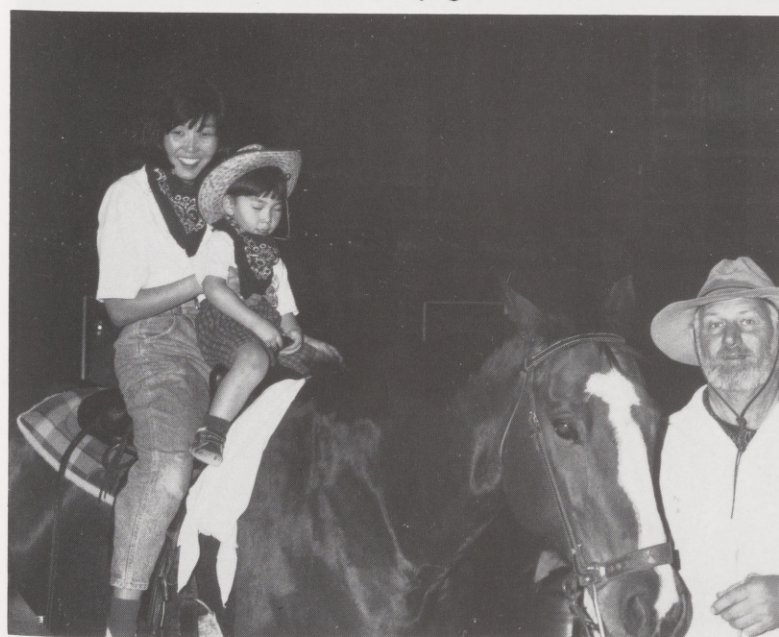
Bob Fujii



Julee & Kyle Matsumoto, Kay Ige



Ron Dyo, Terry & Tara Hanada, Jeffrey Dyo



Cathy & Matthew Cataldo and the "Ghost Rider"

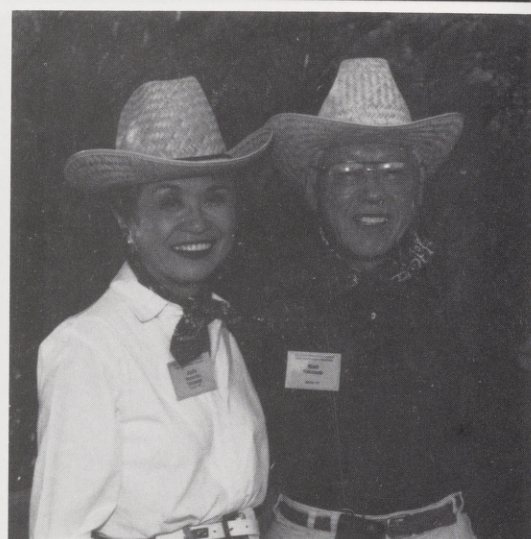


Hy & Mitsie Shishino Family





Gold Miners of 1995



Judy & Nao Takasugi



Sei & Yets Dyo



Lillian Tanaka, Nellie, Chibi & John Yasumoto



Jim Uyemura, Takami & Yo Misaki, Yoshiko Masada, George & Miyeko Baba, Herky Yamamoto, Fudge Sasaki, Mari Kataoka



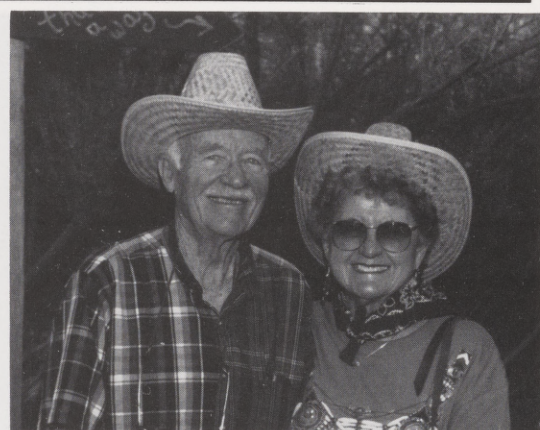
Kin & Alice Kanagaki



# Gila River Relocation 50-Yr. Reunion



Enjoying the vittles at Rockin' R Ranch



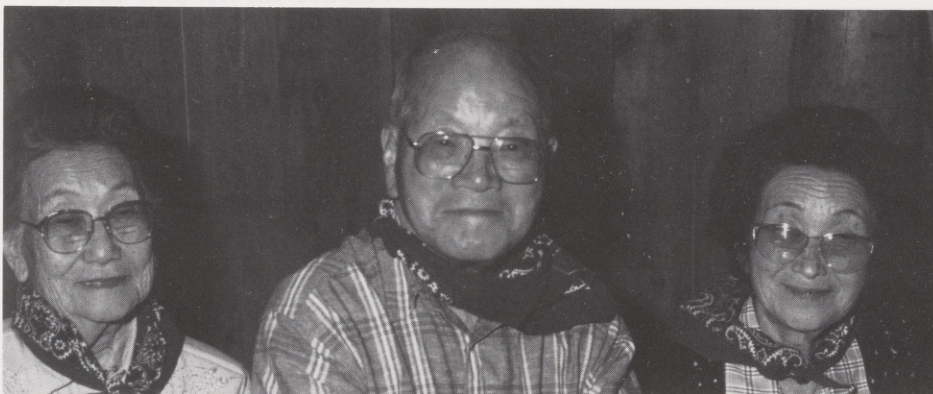
Burne & Jane Hartsook



Masue Tanaka, Karen & Hide Tanaka



Jean & George Taniguchi



Chieko & Mamoru Kuwamoto, Kimiko Sugimoto



Mark and Father John Yamazaki

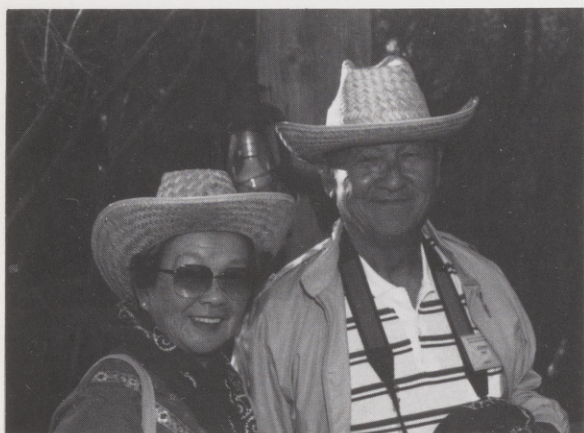


Masako & Tak Nagayama



Troy, Mae & Mits Higa





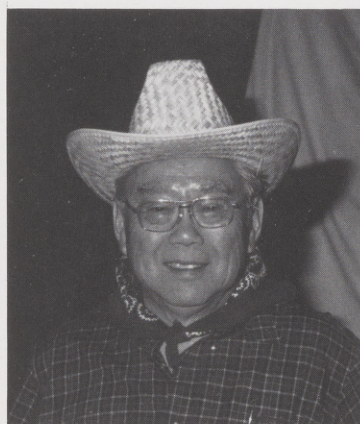
Ruth & Jim Ishii



Chico Masai, Katie Iwanaga, Sei Dyo



Kiyo & Ken Nakagawa



Dr. Sachio Takata



Kay & Yo Kaita



Miyo & Steve Nakaji



Bev & Jun Yamamoto



Nob & Grace Tamura, Suzi & Jack Ochi



Yo & George Higa, Mas Yoshimoto,  
Walt & Machi Kuida



Yuriko Waner, Nobuko Narita-Ash,  
Michelle & Jude Narita



## DEDICATION

The monuments, the events and this program for the Gila Relocation Center Dedication/Reunion are dedicated to three broad groups. First, in memory of the isseis, or first generation, who provided the pioneer spirit by immigrating to the United States from a secure homeland to settle in California in the early 1900's. Their commitment to succeed was interrupted for three years during World War II. These internment years would probably have been their most productive period since arriving to the land of opportunity if they had not been confined. The isseis' teachings and guidance to their families before, during, and after the internment were invaluable.

Second, to honor the niseis, or second generation, of which over one thousand young men entered the United States Armed Forces from the Gila Camps to serve their Country. At least twenty-two of the men are known to have given their lives while in the Service. Others to be remembered are those who left the camps to work in factories, farms, and offices to aid in the War effort. After the War, the niseis returned to California and other states to assimilate well in various communities. Despite being faced with discrimination and prejudices in many cases, they served successfully at positions in business, agriculture, government, and various professions. Because of the good examples set by many niseis, they are often referred to as the "model minority."

Finally, in awareness to the sanseis, or third generation, and future generations of all races and religions to whom the torch will pass. The coming generations need to be vigilant of what occurred at these camps so compassion, concern and assistance can be displayed to any group who might be confronted with similar injustices in the future. They are encouraged to become involved in issues which affect their physical, political, social, and economic environments to preserve the rights for all mankind.

The Dedication/Reunion Committees





The rhythmic pounding of the drums by the Kyo Rei Taiko Kai signaled the beginning of the ceremonies at the IRA Hayes Memorial.



Sei Dyo and Helen Mishima presenting wreath at Ira H. Hayes Memorial.



## CAMP VISIT



Canal Camp Monument dedication ceremony chaired by John Yasumoto.



Returnees viewing a fish pond in Canal Camp built by Sewaki Harada in 1943.

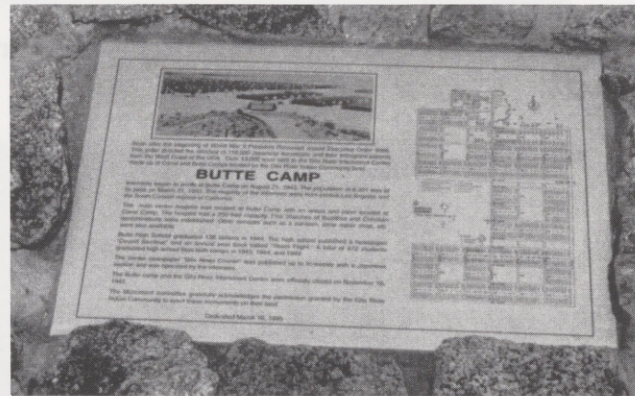


## MONUMENT DEDICATION

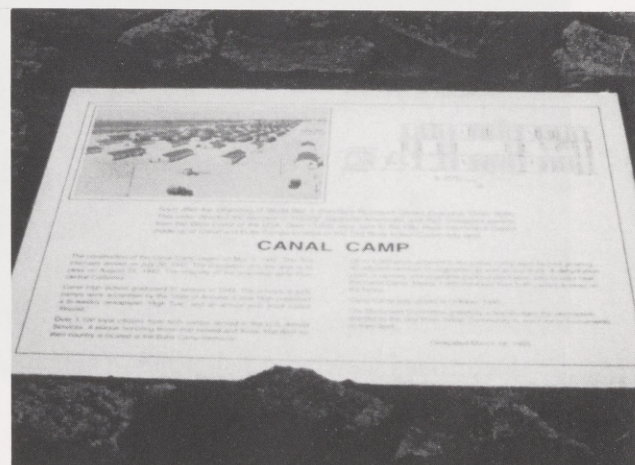
MARCH 18, 1995



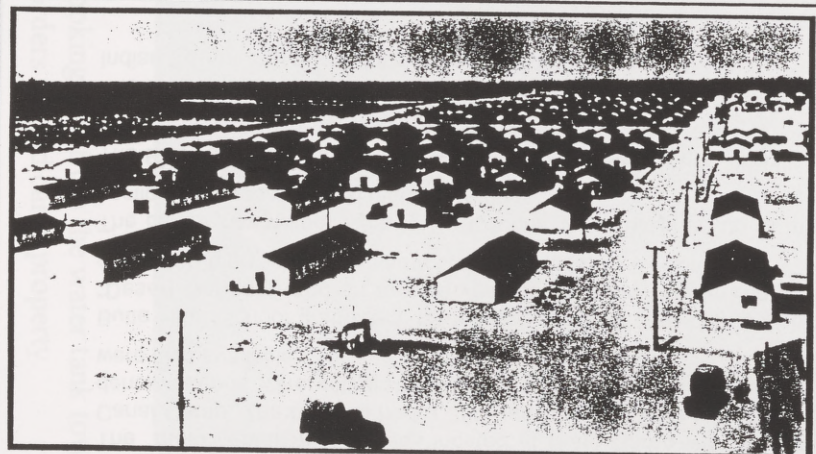
### BUTTE CAMP



### CANAL CAMP







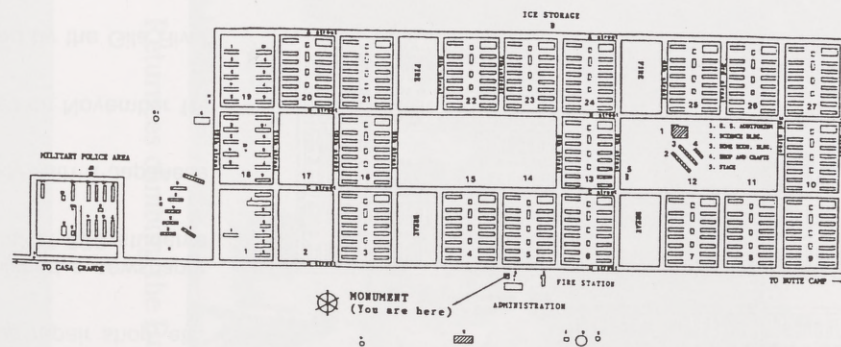
Soon after the beginning of World War II President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order directed the removal of 110,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents from the West Coast of the USA. Over 13,000 were sent to the Gila River Internment Center made up of Canal and Butte Camps located on the Gila River Indian Community land.

## CANAL CAMP

The construction of the Canal Camp began on May 5, 1942. The first internees arrived on July 20, 1942. The population of 5,400 was at its peak on August 21, 1942. The majority of the internees were from central California.

Canal High School graduated 97 seniors in 1944. The schools in both camps were accredited by the State of Arizona. Canal High published a bi-weekly newspaper "High Tide" and an annual year book called "Rivulet."

Over 1,100 loyal citizens from both camps served in the U.S. Armed Services. A plaque honoring those that served and those that died for their country is located at the Butte Camp memorial.



Up to 8,000 acres adjacent to the Canal Camp were farmed growing 42 different varieties of vegetables as well as live stock. A dehydration plant, a cannery and vegetable packing shed were also located near the Canal Camp. Nearly 1,000 internees from both camps worked on the farms.

Canal Camp was closed in October, 1945.

The Monument Committee gratefully acknowledges the permission granted by the Gila River Indian Community to erect these monuments on their land.

Dedicated March 18, 1995





Soon after the beginning of World War II President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order directed the removal of 110,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents from the West Coast of the USA. Over 13,000 were sent to the Gila River Internment Center made up of Canal and Butte Camps located on the Gila River Indian Community land.

## BUTTE CAMP

Internees began to arrive at Butte Camp on August 21, 1942. The population of 8,301 was at its peak on March 21, 1943. The majority of the internees were from central Los Angeles and the South Coastal regions of California.

The main center hospital was located at Butte Camp with an annex and clinic located at Canal Camp. The hospital had a 250 bed capacity. Five churches of Buddhist and Christian denominations were established. Other services such as a canteen, shoe repair shop, etc. were also available.

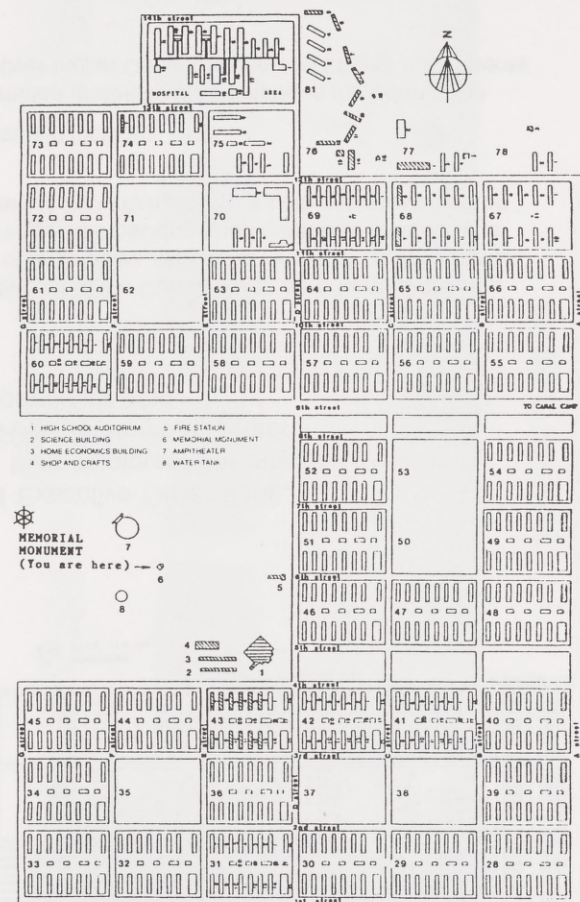
Butte High School graduated 136 seniors in 1944. The high school published a newspaper "Desert Sentinel" and an annual year book called "Years Flight." A total of 872 students graduated high school from both camps in 1943, 1944, and 1945.

The center newspaper "Gila News Courier" was published up to tri-weekly with a Japanese section and was operated by the internees.

The Butte camp and the Gila River Internment Center were officially closed on November 16, 1945.

The Monument committee gratefully acknowledges the permission granted by the Gila River Indian Community to erect these monuments on their land.

Dedicated March 18, 1995







Returnees climbing the Butte to the monument dedication site.



Looking east from the water tank toward Canal Camp, citrus and olive orchards now borders the old camp property.





Rev. John Yamazaki gives the invocation at the monument dedication ceremony.

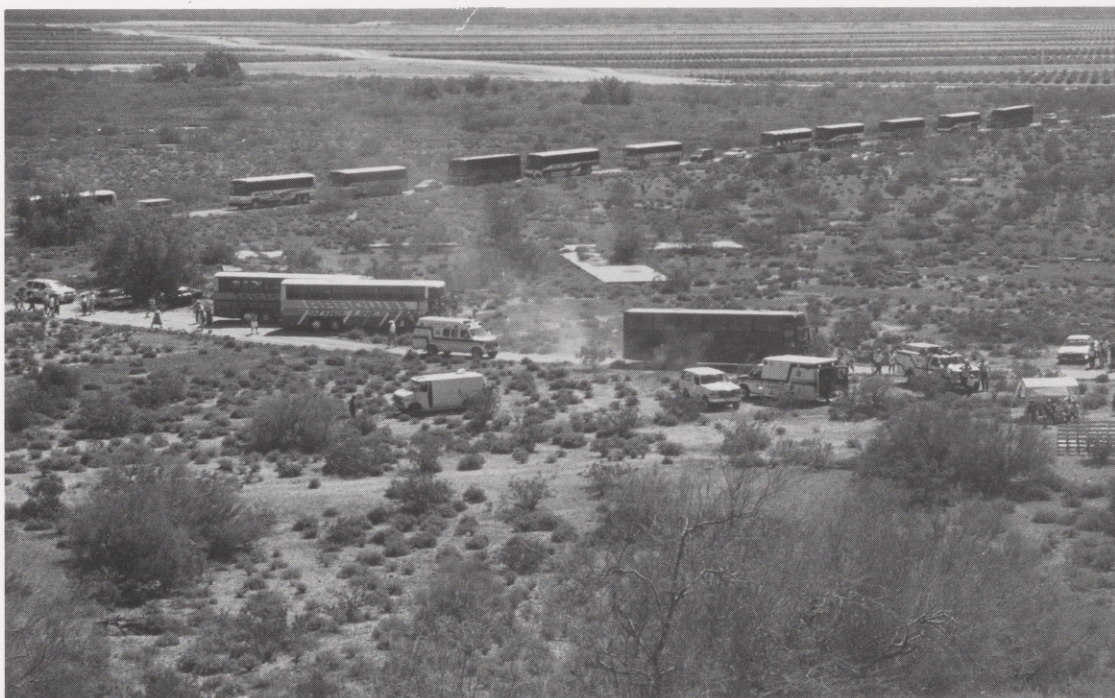


During the dedication ceremonies a wreath was presented in memory of the 1100 service Veterans who served from the Gila Relocation Camp.





Where barracks once stood, concrete foundations are all that remains with iron strap metals so well preserved by the dry desert that they are still bendable.



A convoy of 29 buses, 10 vans and cars transported returnees from the hotel in Phoenix to the Butte Camp site with stops at the Ira Hayes Memorial and Canal Camp with Paramedics on standby.





Paramedics on Standby



The well preserved concrete base is all that is left of the water tank.





Sixteen of the 25 members of the 1947 Butte High School graduating class (sophomores in 1945) who attended the reunion pose for the picture in the hospitality room. Some had not seen each other for 50 years.



Probably the most poignant moment for each of the returnees came when he walked through the desert brush, found his barrack spot and suddenly felt the emotional rush of memories of camp days 50 years ago.





Approaching Butte Camp, bus riders got a fleeting glimpse of a cemetery for dogs who were buried there during camp days.



### The Ralph & Rosie Story

While in high school, Ralph Osada dated his classmate, Rosie Sugai, going to movies, dances and socials together. This relationship was preserved in time when one of his friends wrote "Ralph & Rosie" in the freshly poured steps to the school gymnasium. After camp, they went their own ways and raised families. Ralph lives in Fairfield, California and Rosie in Chicago, Illinois.



## BANQUET

Table G-1

Standing (L to R)

DOANE, Duncan  
EDGAR, Bud

Seated (L to R)

DOANE, Mary (Mark)  
EDGAR, Charlotte  
HARTSOOK, Jane (Eckenstein)  
ROSENTHAL, Rev. Lee



Table G-2

Standing

HAYASHI, Masumi  
TAKASUGI, Nao  
OZONE, Koho  
KUBOTA, Jim  
GIFF, Urban

Seated

TAKASUGI, Judy (Mayeda)  
OZONE, Viola  
KUBOTA, Toby (Ozone)  
GIFF, Mrs.



Table G-3

Standing

ALLMAN, Joe  
TAKEI, George  
SHISHINO, Hy  
YAMAZAKI, Mark

Seated

ALLMAN, Toshiko Kay  
HIRANO, Irene  
SHISHINO, Mitzie  
YAMAZAKI, Rev. John







Table M-1

Standing

UYEMURA, Tadao  
MASUOKA, Dave  
YASUMOTO, Harry  
YASUMOTO, Jason  
FUKAI, Mas

Seated

UYEMURA, Etsuko  
MASUOKA, Margaret  
YASUMOTO, Nellie  
MATSUISHI, Dr. Richard



Table M-2

Standing

ENDO, Grace  
KATO, Eiki  
TANAKA, Carl  
TAGAMI, Tom  
FUJII, Frank

Seated

ENDO, Misako (Shimamura)  
KATO, Winnie  
TANAKA, Kiyoko (Masuda)  
TAGAMI, Michiko  
FUJII, Dorothy



Table M-3

Standing

FUJIOKA, James  
OTA, Ichiro  
SATO, George  
KOMOTO, Roy

Seated

FUJIOKA, June (Yahata)  
OTA, Lily  
SATO, William  
SATO, Irene



Table M-4

Standing

HAZAMA, Yosh  
ITAMURA, Akio  
IRITANI, Frank  
TAKENO, Toe Toshi  
OKAZAKI, Julie

Seated

HAZAMA, Nobie  
ITAMURA, Gladys (Takenouchi)  
IRITANI, Joanne (Ono)  
SHISHIDO, Reiko (Omori)  
OKAZAKI, Yuki



Table M-5

Standing

ARITA, Tom  
KATO, Rand S.  
TOKIYAMA, Mas  
KITAGAWA, Howard  
KITAGAWA, Gladys

Seated

ARITA, Anna (Sato)  
KATO, Michele  
TOKIYAMA, Tomi Anita (Ishiwari)  
KITAGAWA, Celeste  
FURUTA, Ardell (Arita)



Table M-6

Standing

HAMAMOTO, Ben  
HIRANO, Yosh  
HOTTA, Shoichi  
KANEMOTO, Hank  
SHINMOTO, Hank

Seated

HAMAMOTO, Suzie (Furukawa)  
HIRANO, Yoshi  
HOTTA, Mary (Furukawa)  
KANEMOTO, Aiko  
KUMANO, Chiyeko







Table M-7

Standing

HONMA, Hideo  
HONMA, Scott  
HIRAI, Atsuko  
KUSAKA, Kiyoshi  
KITAMURA, Daniel

Seated

HONMA, June (Hoshida)  
EBISUSAKI, Masako (Odachi)  
NARUMI, Beverly (Omori)  
STARR, Kay (Kusaka)  
KITAMURA, Yoko (Kusaka)



Table M-8

Standing

MIYAMOTO, Toshi (Oshima)  
TANIGUCHI, Dennis  
TANIGUCHI, Sharyn  
TANIGUCHI, Scott  
TANIGUCHI, Frank

Seated

MIYAMOTO, Miki  
KAWANO, Mary (Saika)  
TANIGUCHI, Troy  
TANIGUCHI, Si  
TANIGUCHI, Rui



Table M-9

Standing

SAHARA, Kanji  
DYO, Gary  
TANAKA, Saburo  
TANAKA, Brian  
TANAKA, Georgia

Seated

SAHARA, Jane  
DYO, Stephanie  
DYO, Michelle  
DYO, Jeffrey  
CHIVERS, Toshiko (Teraji)



Table M-10

Standing

INOSHITA, Sandra  
INOSHITA, Minoru  
INOSHITA, Ben  
INOSHITA, Michael  
CONFROY, Mark T.

Seated

SHIMIZU, Shizuye (Inoshita)  
INOSHITA, Kathy (Kajimura)  
INOSHITA, Marjorie  
NEILSEN, Holly  
CONFROY, Patricia



Table M-11

Standing

FUJII, Bob  
MATSUBARA, Yoneo  
NAKANO, Don  
YOSHIDA, Joe  
NISHI, Azuma

Seated

FURUTA, Midge (Hosaki)  
HUXLEY, Mary (Taniguchi)  
MORI, Yo  
KATAI, Yuri (Hashigami)  
KOJIMA, Mary (Yamauchi)



Table M-12

Standing

HASHIMOTO, Tom  
SAKOI, Mas  
WAKAGAWA, Sho  
YAMASHITA, Calvin  
MASAI, Yukio

Seated

HASHIMOTO, Betty  
SAKOI, Sachi  
WAKAGAWA, Chisato (Sakoi)  
YAMASHITA, Karie H. (Koga)  
MASAI, John







Table M-13

Standing

WHITCOMB, Bernie  
YOSHIMOTO, Robert  
YAMAMOTO, Jun  
HAYAKAWA, Masami  
IKAWA, Jack

Seated

OGATA, Judy (Yoshimoto)  
YOSHIMOTO, Mary  
YAMAMOTO, Beverly (Yoshimoto)  
HAYAKAWA, Florence  
IKAWA, Irene



Table M-14

Standing

GOEBEL, Gary  
JIIBU, Robert  
YOSHIMOTO, Mas  
INN, Harry  
TANISAWA, Seichi

Seated

GOEBEL, Susan  
JIIBU, Karen (Yoshimoto)  
INN, Kiyoko (Tsudama)  
TANISAWA, Takeko (Murano)



Table M-15

Standing

TSUDAMA, Minoru  
TSUDAMA, Ben  
HARA, Toshichika Chika  
FURUKAWA, Tom  
ARAKI, Ken

Seated

TSUDAMA, Gary  
TSUDAMA, Sue  
HARA, Sue (Nakahara)  
FURUKAWA, Clara  
ARAKI, Grace



Table M-16

Standing

HAMASAKI, Milton  
HIROTA, Aki  
OSADA, Ralph  
TAKATA, Kenneth  
TAKATA, Tosh

Seated

HAMASAKI, Helen  
MIZUKAMI, Mutsu (Takata)  
NOMURA, Pat (Kirita)  
TAKATA, Sachi  
TAKAZUMI, Robert



Table M-17

Standing

OBERHOLTZER, Jay  
NAKAMURA, Daniel  
NAKAMURA, Yosh  
YOSHIMURA, Shig (Nakamura)  
SAGUCHI, Jon

Seated

OBERHOLTZER, Linda  
(Nakamura)  
STINSON, Paula  
NAKAMURA, Grace  
YOSHIMURA, Peggy



Table M-18

Standing

WEISBERG, Jane  
YAMAZAKI, Sid  
YAMAZAKI, Jeanine  
HIFUMI, Fred  
ABE, James

Seated

YETO, June  
YAMAZAKI, Kathi  
RESTON, Allison  
HIFUMI, Sadie (Inatomi)  
HAMAMOTO, Fusako (Tsunoda)







Table M-19

Standing

DEPONTE, Joe  
DEPONTE, Dianne  
PARTAMINA, Cynthia  
DEPONTE, Elizabeth  
DEPONTE, Katherine

Seated

KOKI, Chizuye (Okino)  
YAMAGUCHI, Fumiko (Okino)  
ARAKI, Janet (Yamada)  
ARAKI, Melissa  
HAMAGUCHI, Helen (Uemoto)



Table M-20

Standing

KOJIMA, Richard  
KUWAHARA, May Yuriko  
INOSHITA, Mas  
KAJI, James  
KAJI, Hugo

Seated

KOJIMA, Ayako (Kawazoye)  
ISHIKAWA, Haruko (Kuwahara)  
INOSHITA, Betty (Kuwahara)  
KAJI, Dorothy (Kuwahara)  
KAJI, Marion M. (Kuwahara)



Table M-21

Standing

IWAMI, Larry  
MISHIMA, Rusty  
MURATA, Mabel (Sugiyama)  
SUGIYAMA, Curt  
KAJIWARA, Edward

Seated

IWAMI, Barbara  
MISHIMA, Helen (Sugiyama)  
KOYAMA, Sue  
KAJIWARA, Mary (Miyabe)



Table M-22

Standing

YASUMOTO, John  
SAKAMOTO, Roger  
DUPUCH, Che  
SUSU-MAGO, Douglas  
OKABAYASHI, Fumi

Seated

YASUMOTO, Chibi (Yamamoto)  
SAKAMOTO, May (Tanaka)  
SATO, Susie  
DAMES, Jean  
MIYAGISHIMA, Carol



Table M-23

Standing

NAKAGAWA, Ken  
IGE, Kay (Yamamoto)  
TONOOKA, Ben  
TANAKA, Frank  
BUTSUMYO, Aiko

Seated

NAKAGAWA, Kiyoko (Butsumyo)  
MATSUMOTO, Julee (Ige)  
DAHLEN, Janis (Tonooka)  
TANAKA, Lillian (Tanigawa)  
TAIRA, Kimi (Butsumyo)



Table M-24

Standing

NAKAZAWA, Ed  
IMADA, Ray  
SHIBUYA, Laura  
YOKOTA, Alice  
YOKOTA, Lance

Seated

NAKAZAWA, Yemiko (Imamura)  
IMADA, Yone (Yonekawa)  
SHIBUYA, Isabel  
YOKOTA, Sanaye (Katako)







Table M-25

Standing

YUMAE, Grace (Araki)  
HASHIGAMI, Sets  
TAKETA, Kazuto  
NISHIURA, Takao  
SUMMERS, John

Seated

FUJINO, Yuriko (Taketa)  
NISHIJIMA, Sachi (Hashigami)  
TAKETA, Yoshiko  
NISHIURA, Takako (Kitagawa)  
SUMMERS, Jane (Araki)



Table M-26

Standing

KANOW, Steve  
TAKIMOTO, Corey  
TAKIMOTO, Hideyo  
ESAKI, George  
ESAKI, John

Seated

KANOW, Carynn  
TAGAMI, Shizue (Yatabe)  
TAKIMOTO, Mitzie (Mizufune)  
ESAKI, Jean (Oishi)  
ESAKI, Amy



Table M-27

Standing

TANIGUCHI, Akira  
TANIGUCHI, Jim  
UENO, Rodney  
FUKUTAKI, Kobo  
FUKUTAKI, Edgar

Seated

TANIGUCHI, Betty (Yoshino)  
TANIGUCHI, Grace  
UENO, Tomi (Tani)  
KATO, Mineko (Hamada)  
KATO, Karen



Table M-28

Standing

YASAKI, Masao  
HORII, Harry  
HORII, Chita (Iwamoto)  
KATO, Chibbie (Shiimori)  
KAWAKAMI, Kaz

Seated

YASAKI, Ayako (Muraoka)  
TAKANO, Yoneko  
OGATA, Tats (Matsushita)  
KAWAKAMI, Virginia



Table M-29

Standing

SAMESHIMA, Hitoshi  
HIGASHI, Stephanie  
HIGASHI, Barbara  
FURUKAWA, Kiyomi  
MARUYAMA, Ayako

Seated

TACHI, Yoshie (Ishii)  
KURACHI, Takayo (Ishii)  
BURNS, Shirley  
BURNS, Leilani  
IKEHARA, Hideko (Maruyama)



Table M-30

Standing

HANADA, Terry  
DYO, Sei  
DYO, Cindy  
DYO, Ronald

Seated

HANADA, Janice  
HANADA, Tara  
DYO, Yets (Fujimoto)  
DYO, Shaun  
DYO, Nolan







Table M-31

Standing

KOBATA, Harold  
YAMAUCHI, Gary  
WAKAMOTO, Charles  
FLORES, Suzanne  
WAI, George

Seated

KOBATA, Haru (Fujimoto)  
YAMAUCHI, Linda (Kobata)  
WAKAMOTO, Sharon (Kobata)  
WAI, Kazuye (Takeda)  
WAI, Diane



Table M-32

Standing

HIGA, George  
HIGA, Yosh  
NAGAYAMA, Tak  
HIGA, Troy  
HIGA, Mits

Seated

HIGA, Yo (Matsushita)  
HIGA, Nats (Oban)  
NAGAYAMA, Masako (Higa)  
BERCK, Bonnie (Higa)  
HIGA, Mae



Table M-33

Standing

NAKANO, Yosh  
TANABE, Art  
SHIBATA, Kaoru  
TANIGUCHI, George  
TAKAO, Sueko (Inouye)

Seated

NAKANO, Rubie  
TANABE, Sumi (Taniguchi)  
SHIBATA, Mariko (Kusaka)  
TANIGUCHI, Jean R. (Fujimoto)  
SAITO, June (Takao)



Table M-34

Standing

BABA, Robert  
TANAKA, Hideki  
TANAKA, Yukio  
WADA, Frank  
WADA, Kennie

Seated

SHIOTA, Masako (Tanaka)  
TAKATA, Annie (Tanaka)  
TANAKA, Kiyoko  
WADA, Mari (Abe)  
ISHIBASHI, Nobu (Tanaka)



Table M-35

Standing

ENDOW, Toru  
KIHARA, George  
OTAMURA, Howard  
SATO, Kazuo  
SATO, Stephen

Seated

ENDOW, Kazie (Tsunoda)  
KIHARA, Ann (Mineno)  
OTAMURA, Kathryn (Kihara)  
SATO, Tatsuko  
HOSHIDE, Alice (Kihara)



Table M-36

Standing

TSUTSUI, Sam  
SUGAI, Leslie  
SUGAI, Tom  
SUGAI, Kit  
OKIMURA, Glenn

Seated

TSUTSUI, Shiz  
TANI, Midori (Sunada)  
GARCIA, Alice  
SUGAI, Barbara (Tsutsui)  
SUGAI, Michele







Table M-37

Standing

TANIGUCHI, Robert  
HORITA, Ben  
OMATSU, Sylvia (Komai)  
CASTANEDA, Sumi (Kawamoto)  
CASTANEDA, Vince

Seated

TANIGUCHI, Aiko (Kawamoto)  
HORITA, Kay (Kawamoto)  
FUJIOKA, Pola (Komai)  
NISHIMURA, Shiz (Kawamoto)



Table M-38

Standing

MURATA, James M.  
HIRATSUKA, Shigeki  
ISHIMARU, Stone  
NAKAMURA, Mark  
NISHI, Florence (Masai)

Seated

MURATA, Emi K.  
MASAOKA, Mary Ann (Sakamoto)  
ISHIMARU, Joan  
NAKAMURA, Joanne (Masuhara)  
TAKIGUCHI, Masako



Table M-39

Standing

HIRAI, George  
MORIWAKI, Noriyoshi  
KATO, Dean  
DOTEY, Jessica  
ICHIKAWA, Daniel  
HORIKAWA, Kik (Tagami)

Seated

HIRAI, June (Suzuki)  
MORIWAKI, Mae (Kurihara)  
KATO, Sumiko  
HIRASE, Sue (Tagami)  
NAKAMURA, Tsuyako (Hirai)



Table M-40

Standing

NAKAGAWA, Dave  
SATO, Hank  
MIYAMOTO, Osamu  
MATSUNAGA, Ron  
KEIMI, Albert

Seated

NAKAGAWA, Helen (Sakata)  
SATO, Carol  
MIYAMOTO, Aki (Sato)  
MATSUNAGA, Helen (Morita)  
KEIMI, Emiko (Harada)



Table M-41

Standing

KITAGAWA, Takeo  
NAGATA, Roy  
MATOBA, Jodi  
NAKAMURA, Sam  
TANAKA, Jim

Seated

MORI, Toshiko (Kitagawa)  
NAGATA, Nancy (Morikawa)  
MATOBA, Alice (Kodama)  
NAKAMURA, Hatsie (Matoba)  
TANAKA, Tomi (Matoba)



Table M-42

Standing

YAMABE, Nob  
FUNO, Fumi (Yanagihara)  
FUNO, Mas  
ONISHI, Masato  
YAMAMOTO, Masatsuki Mutt

Seated

YOKOTA, Frances, (Hikida)  
ICHIKAWA, Michi (Yamamoto)  
YAMAMOTO, Alice (Miyake)  
ONISHI, Mitsune (Taniguchi)  
YAMAMOTO, Yasuko (Tsutsumida)







Table M-43

Standing

SUGIMOTO, Fred  
 ICHIHANA, Mike  
 IKEDA, Tsutomu  
 OSHIGE, Noboru  
 KOBASHI, Hideo

Seated

SUGIMOTO, Susie (Oda)  
 ICHIHANA, Virginia (Matsumoto)  
 IKEDA, Michiko  
 OSHIGE, Teruko (Maeda)  
 KOBASHI, Jean (Fujioka)



Table M-44

Standing

NAKAMURA, Kazuto  
 MIYA, Kazuo  
 MATSUSHIMA, Ted  
 MATSUDA, Hisashi  
 McCABE, Nobuko (Matsuda)

Seated

NAKAMURA, Hisako  
 MIYA, Edith (Oda)  
 MATSUSHIMA, Mary Fumio (Oda)  
 KAILI, Tayeko (Matsuda)  
 EGUCHI, Miyo (Matsuda)



Table M-45

Standing

OKINO, Min  
 OKINO, Michelle  
 YAMASHIRO, Hideo  
 KATO, Akira  
 YOSHIMURA, Tootsie (Yamamoto)

Seated

OKINO, Edith (Iwamura)  
 KUNISHIGE, Shiz (Hashimoto)  
 KOBASHIGAWA, Sharyn (Okino)  
 KATO, Fumiko (Yamamoto)  
 YAMAMOTO, Yoshiko



Table M-46

Standing

FUJIMOTO, Michiko  
NOSE, Akira  
NOSE, Yulie (Kiyasu)  
SATOW, Symon  
SATOW, Yvonne

Seated

FUJIMOTO, Nami  
FUJIMOTO, Tosh  
FUJIMOTO, Shigeko  
UEJIMA, Deni  
UEJIMA, June



Table M-47

Standing

KANEMOTO, Wayne  
NISHIOKA, Akira  
KAWA, Steven  
ZUCKSWERTH, John  
IMADA, Kinji

Seated

KANEMOTO, Betty  
NISHIOKA, Yoko (Sakamoto)  
KAWA, Kristen  
KANEMOTO, Mitzi  
NAGATA, Walter

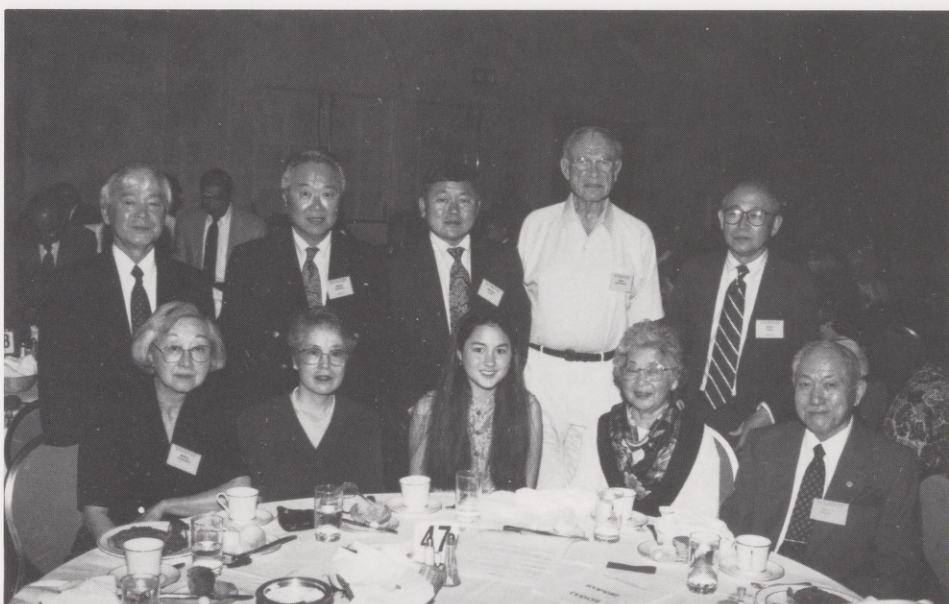


Table M-48

Standing

MAENO, Margaret  
YOKOYAMA, Ralph  
YAMAMOTO, Goro  
YAMAMOTO, Enid  
YAMAMOTO, Bill

Seated

MAENO, Alice  
YOKOYAMA, Jane  
YAMAMOTO, Hideko (Yagi)  
MALLOY, Tammy (Yamamoto)







Table M-49

Standing

YANAGISAKO, Ford  
SAKANIWA, Tanny  
OUCHI, George  
OUCHI, Ichiro  
ODA, Yaeko

Seated

YANAGISAKO, Nancy (Ikeda)  
SAKANIWA, Margaret (Ikeda)  
OUCHI, Kimi  
OUCHI, Hisako  
WONG, Ruth (Kamon)



Table M-50

Standing

MAKINO, Jim  
MAKINO, Masayo  
NAGAHORI, Henry  
SAKAMOTO, Dr. Frank  
OISHI, Jiro

Seated

JOE, Lisa  
OKABE, Sue  
NAGAHORI, Ami  
SAKAMOTO, Toshiko  
OISHI, Ann (Makino)



Table M-51

Standing

FUKUZAWA, Michito  
YAMAMOTO, Todd  
ISHIHARA, Lonny  
ARATANI, Jiro  
INOUE, Taro

Seated

FUKUZAWA, Namiye  
YAMAMOTO, Yo (Kamiya)  
ISHIHARA, Ritsu  
ARATANI, Lily  
INOUE, Jean (Mura)



## Gila River Relocation 50-Yr. Reunion

Table M-52

### Standing

MIYAGISHIMA, Joyce  
 MIYAGISHIMA, Al  
 YOKOE, Tom  
 OKAWACHI, Gladys (Miyagishima)  
 TURNAGE, Gus

### Seated

OGAWA-QUINLAN,  
 Elizabeth (Miyagishima)  
 MIYAGISHIMA, Nancy  
 YOKOE, Mabel (Miyagishima)  
 OKAWACHI, Tsuneo  
 TURNAGE, Jeanne (Miyagishima)



Table M-53

### Standing

MATSUURA, Ben  
 KATSURA, Roy  
 KUBO, Yone  
 NAKAHARA, Sue (Nishimoto)  
 NAKAHARA, Toyoko

### Seated

MATSUURA, Nancy (Aoki)  
 KATSURA, Etsuko  
 KUBO, Chizu (Matsuura)  
 MATSUNO, Michiko (Nishimoto)



Table M-54

### Standing

HIROMOTO, Harold  
 MATSUSHIRO, Frank  
 HIRABAYASHI, Sam  
 YASUI, Ken  
 OTSUJI, Hiro

### Seated

ITO, Grace (Shigaki)  
 MATSUSHIRO, Shiyeko (Murata)  
 HIRABAYASHI, Betty (Yahanda)  
 YASUI, Harriet  
 GOTO, Susan (Hiromoto)







Table M-55

Standing

HIGA, Roy  
HIGA, Itsy (Iwamura)  
NAGAI, Akira  
NAGAI, Ronald  
ABE, Norman

Seated

KAMIMURA, Eunice  
KAMIMURA, Robyn  
NAGAI, Hamako  
NAGAI, Carol (Oishi)  
NAKAMURA, Harumi



Table M-56

Standing

NOBUHIRO, Ben  
KAWAMURA, Kuni  
NITA, Mark  
SHIBATA, Reiko (Yoshimura)  
GOOGINS, Tom

Seated

NOBUHIRO, Michi (Shine)  
KAWAMURA, Miyeko (Murata)  
NITA, Mary  
YAMASAKI, Youko (Yoshimura)  
GOOGINS, Miyuki (Yoshimura)



Table M-57

Standing

HORI, Yasuyo  
KATAOKA, Jiro  
KURAMOTO, Mamoru  
SUGIMOTO, Kimiko

Seated

TAKANO, Kuye  
MISAKI, Yo (Noda)  
KATAOKA, Mariye  
KURAMOTO, Chiyeiko  
NONAKA, Yoshiye (Takano)



Table M-58

Standing

MORIYA, Walt  
YAMAGUCHI, Eddie  
ITO, Dr. Setsuo  
YAMAGUCHI, George  
NAKAYAMA, Yosh

Seated

MORIYA, Fumi (Kuratami)  
YAMAGUCHI, Florence  
ITO, Torie (Yamaguchi)  
YAMAGUCHI, Kissie (Kamada)  
NAKAYAMA, Masako (Yamaguchi)



Table M-59

Standing

FUJIMOTO, Martha  
SAIKO, Kazuo  
NAKAJI, Steve  
ICHINOTSUBO, Wataru  
TAGAWA, Ishimi

Seated

EMBREY, Sue (Kunitomi)  
SAIKO, Emiko (Noda)  
NAKAJI, Miyo (Yamada)  
ICHINOTSUBO, Ayako (Saji)  
YAMAGISHI, Joyce



Table M-60

Standing

KOMAI, Leo  
YAMAUCHI, Tom  
WERNER, Yuriko (Matsuda)  
NARITA, Michelle  
NISHIMOTO, Evelyn (Nagata)

Seated

KOMAI, Eleanor  
YAMAUCHI, Kimii (Nagata)  
IWANAGA, Dorothy (Matsumoto)  
NARITA-ASH, Nobuko (Emoto)  
NARITA, Jude







Table M-61

Standing

KIKUCHI, George  
TAMAKI, Ben  
TAKUSAGAWA, Hiroshi  
TAKEMOTO, Bill  
SHIMAHARA, Satsumi (Yoshida)

Seated

HAYASHI, Haruo  
BOAZ, Betty (Kuwano)  
TAKUSAGAWA, Emiko (Yato)  
TAKEMOTO, Shizuko (Koyanagi)  
WATANABE, Tomoye (Yoshida)



Table M-62

Standing

GOYA, Kaz  
IWANAGA, Russell  
TAJIMA, Ted  
MIZUKI, Hiro  
TSUSHIMA, Harry

Seated

GOYA, Nancy (Kaita)  
IWANAGA, Katie (Yasumoto)  
TAJIMA, Setsuko  
YOKOGAWA, Ida (Ikeda)  
TSUSHIMA, Mae (Suechika)



Table M-63

Standing

ARGYLE, Brett  
ARGYLE, Douglas  
NOMURA, Taka, (Kawatsu)  
NOMURA, Sho  
NAITO, Chis

Seated

ARGYLE, Linda (Otani)  
OTANI, Mary  
NOMURA, Michi  
NOMURA, Ann  
KUNIHIRO, Matt



Table M-64

Standing

ISHII, Tom  
ISHII, Jim  
IKEDA, Robert  
NAKATA, Tom  
KANAGAKI, Kin

Seated

ISHII, Jo  
ISHII, Ruth (Ishimine)  
IKEDA, Yas  
NAKATA, Kay (Nitasaka)  
KANAGAKI, Alice (Noguchi)



Table M-65

Standing

HONDA, Gump  
YAHANDA, Alfred  
TSUFURA, Tad  
HOSHIZAKI, Casey  
KODAMA, Mits

Seated

HONDA, Tomi (Otani)  
YAHANDA, Hoyoko (Migaki)  
TSUFURA, Mabel  
HOSHIZAKI, Yuico (Otani)  
KODAMA, Tuney (Otani)



Table M-66

Standing

HIGAKI, Jeffrey  
YASUKAWA, Robert  
HIGAKI, Shigeru  
YAMAICHI, Jim  
NAKAMURA, Noriaki

Seated

HIGAKI, Anna  
YASUKAWA, Marcia  
HIGAKI, Sumi (Mizufune)  
YAMAICHI, Eiko (Tanaka)  
NAKAMURA, Rose (Hara)







Table M-67

Standing

BELCHER, John  
 BELCHER, Raylene  
 YAMASHITA, Harry  
 YAMASHITA, Haruo Henry  
 YAMASHITA, Bobby

Seated

BELCHER, Terri (Yamashita)  
 ERKSON, Renee (Belcher)  
 BELCHER, Robby  
 YAMASHITA, Kiyoko (Shimamura)  
 YAMASHITA, Susan



Table M-68

Standing

SANO, Barney  
 SANO, Lisa  
 YAMASHITA, George  
 BABA, George  
 MASADA, Yoshiko (Gamow)

Seated

SANO, May (Wada)  
 IKEMIYA, Carolyn (Nakata)  
 YAMASHITA, Jane  
 BABA, Miyeko (Gamow)  
 HASHIMOTO, Midori (Kumataka)



Table M-69

Standing

YAMAMURA, Frank  
 YAMAMOTO, James  
 EGUSA, Morey  
 KAWAHARA, Danny  
 IKEDA, George

Seated

YAMAMURA, Louise  
 YAMAMOTO, Shizuko  
 EGUSA, Michie  
 KAWAHARA, May  
 IKEDA, Chiyo



Table M-70

Standing

OMORI, Kazuo  
TOJI, Robert  
TOTSUBO, Jack  
TOTSUBO, Ronald  
HAMANO, Jamie  
NISHIKAWA, Kirk Muneo

Seated

OMORI, Nancy (Hiranaka)  
TOJI, Susanne  
TOTSUBO, Kazue  
TOTSUBO, Geri  
TOJI, Marcus



Table M-71

Standing

YAMAMOTO, Bob  
GOLDEN, Patricia  
GOLDEN, Olen  
ROLLINS, Isabelle  
KUIDA, Walt

Seated

ENGBRETSON, Nancy (Shiosaki)  
DOOLIN, Wesley  
GOLDEN, Yoshiko (Maeyama)  
ROLLINS, Tricia  
KUIDA, Machi



Table M-72

Standing

TAKUSAGAWA, Kaz  
TAMURA, Nob  
OCHI, Jack  
YUKAWA, Isao  
FUKUYAMA, Leo

Seated

TAKUSAGAWA, Helen (Inai)  
TAMURA, Grace (Hayashida)  
OCHI, Suzi (Tamura)  
KUBO, Irene  
FUKUYAMA, Joanne







Table M-73

Standing

MAY, Karen  
UYENO, Sadao  
HIRAKAMI, Herky  
FUYUUME, John  
MAYEDA, Henry

Seated

MAY, Akemi  
UYENO, Aiko (Shintani)  
HIRAKAMI, Evelyn  
FUYUUME, Setsuko  
MAYEDA, Sadako



Table M-74

Standing

IWAI, Gary  
NOBUYUKI, Kenneth  
NOBUYUKI, Karl  
MATSUMURA, Kelly  
HEDANI, Grace (Tanaka)

Seated

HONDA, Miyo  
KISHABA, Karen (Nobuyuki)  
NOBUYUKI, Sandra  
MATSUMURA, Yukiye  
TANAKA, Nancy



Table M-75

Standing

WONG-SING, Darryl  
WONG-SING, Janette (Kimoto)  
KIMOTO, Tak  
WONG-SING, Greg  
RIPLEY, Rose (Katsuki)

Seated

ANDO, Sets (Heyano)  
HEYANO, Hanako  
KIMOTO, Shiz (Heyano)  
WONG-SING, Jackie  
KATSUKI, Kim (Hamada)



Table M-76

Standing

OGINO, Tak  
ASAMOTO, Nob  
ASAMOTO, Sam  
ASAMOTO, Robert  
ASAMOTO, Brian

Seated

OGINO, Jean (Asamoto)  
ZIELINSKY, Tomie  
ASAMOTO, Amy  
ASAMOTO, Sandy



Table M-77

Standing

KOMOTO, Tech  
KAKAGAWA, Roy  
NOMURA, George Masaki  
MAEYAMA, Henry  
HATANAKA, Howard

Seated

KOMOTO, Tomi (Kono)  
NAKAGAWA, Mary (Wada)  
NOMURA, Jean Akiko (Nakano)  
MAEYAMA, Teresa  
HATANAKA, Sada



Table M-78

Standing

HAMASAKI, Tomo  
YAMAMOTO, Tak  
ISHIBASHI, Daniel  
ISHIBASHI, Eiko (Hamasaki)  
KOBAYASHI, Robert

Seated

HAMASAKI, Cynthia  
YAMAMOTO, Etsuko (Hamasaki)  
HAMASAKI, Tsugino (Nagasawa)  
KODAMA, Fudge (Hamasaki)  
KOBAYASHI, Itsie (Hamasaki)







Table M-79

Standing

KAITA, Roy  
YOKOYAMA, George H.  
KAITA, Kay  
YOKOYAMA, George M.  
YOKOYAMA, Robert

Seated

KAITA, Emiko (Tara)  
YOKOYAMA, Clara (Seiji)  
KAITA, Yo (Tara)  
YOKOYAMA, Tomiko (Aino)



Table M-80

Standing

YAMAMOTO, Herky (Noda)  
KURAMOTO, Mineko  
MEYER, Gary  
SAKAGUCHI, Min  
TAMURA, Yosh

Seated

SASAKI, Fujiko (Tara)  
MARSELIS-SUGIMOTO, Grace  
MEYER, Hiroko (Ii)  
SAKAGUCHI, Sally  
TAMURA, Yeiko



Table M-81

Standing

HATATE, Mary (Yusa)  
MORIKAWA, Grace (Sato)  
YAMASHITA, Takeshi  
MUROTSUNE, Roy  
HAYASHI, Warren

Seated

HAYASHI, Carol  
YAMASHITA, Irene  
MUROTSUNE, Esther  
HAYASHI, Jane (Tanaka)



Table A-1

Standing (L to R)

NAGANUMA, George  
MILLER, Lohring  
SEIJI, Hideo  
MASAI, Shin  
FURUKAWA, Tets

Seated (L to R)

NAGANUMA, Claudine  
KURAMITSU, Yayoe  
SEIJI, June  
HIRAI, Louise (Ide)  
SHIGEMATSU, Jean (Naganuma)



Table A-2

Standing

ITOMURA, Shirley  
ITOMURA, Dick  
TANAKA, Hideaki  
TAKAYAMA, Shigeo

Seated

NISHINAKA, Angel (Itomura)  
MIYADA, Michi (Itomura)  
TANAKA, Karen (Shimada)  
TANAKA, Masue (Mito)



Table A-3

Standing

TAMURA, Ronald  
TAMURA, Jeanne  
PETERSON, Tiza (Grimes)  
MORITA, Fred

Seated

TAMURA, Griffin  
TAMURA, Richard  
SMITH, Tristine (Grimes)  
GRIMES, Shizuko (Nagao)  
MORITA, Lillie (Murotsune)







Table A-4

Standing

MATSUDA, Bill  
KUSAMURA, Ruth (Nomura)  
IBARA, Dexter  
SUGITA, Yoshifumi  
OKUMOTO, Ted

Seated

MATSUDA, Tomoko  
MATSUDA, Fannie  
IBARA, Diana (Okumoto)  
SUGITA, Marie (Hoshino)  
OKUMOTO, June



Table A-5

Standing

YOSHIDA, Joyce (Toyoda)  
OKAMOTO, Fred  
HANYU, Noboru  
KODAMA, Frank  
SAKAI, Penney (Kodama)

Seated

TOYODA-HIRASUNA, Dorothy (Doi)  
SAKAI, Keiko Joyce  
HANYU, Yaeko (Sakai)  
KODAMA, Mabel  
SAKAI, April



Table A-6

Standing

FUKAGAWA, Roy  
BABINEAU, Bryan  
NAKAI, George  
IMAGIRE, Arthur  
RICHTER, Erik

Seated

SUYEYASU, Ann (Yamashita)  
SUYEYASU, Deborah  
NAKAI, Nadine (Fukagawa)  
IMAGIRE, Gloria, (Saika)  
IMAGIRE, Bryn



Table A-7

Standing

YAMASHITA, Marrie (Hata)  
LEMMON, Maya (Hata)  
NAKANO, Yayoi (Nishikawa)  
NAKANO, Sherry  
NAKANO, Jeffrey

Seated

TAKAGI, Lily (Sano)  
IKEDA, Lillie (Ide)  
NAKANO, Michael  
NAKANO, Steven  
NAKANO, Carrie



Table A-8

Standing

OHASHI, Mas  
SHIMOIDE, Kaoru  
HAYASHI, Shigeo  
NAGATA, Brian  
KAWAUCHI, Sam

Seated

OHASHI, Bessie (Okazaki)  
SHIMOIDE, Yoneko (Hayashi)  
HAYASHI, Kinuko (Yamane)  
NAGATA, Tom  
NAGATA, Kevin



Table A-9

Standing

TANG, Alan  
MALCOLM, John  
CHING, Clifford  
CHING, Kevin

Seated

TANG, Marilyn (Inoshita)  
ASO, Joyce  
CHING, Akemi (Okino)







Table A-10

Standing

YOKOTA, Hideishi  
KIYASU, William  
TANAKA, George  
YONEMOTO, Nob  
MURANO, Roy

Seated

YOKOTA, Ryoko  
KIYASU, Kiku  
TANAKA, Bessie (Ide)  
YONEMOTO, Joyce (Fukuyama)



Table A-11

Standing

HIROTO, Hoover  
HIGASHI, Min  
NOBUYUKI, Kenneth

Seated

HIGASHI, John  
HIGASHI, Aki  
HIGASHIDE, Chiye (Ishiwari)  
YAMAGATA, Laurence  
YAMAGATA, Hiroshi



Table A-12

Standing

ABBOTT, Sharon  
HAYASHI, June (Shirozu)  
HAYASHI, Ken  
SATO, Bill  
HIGUCHI, George

Seated

ABBOTT, Alice (Sameshima)  
OZAWA, Betty (Tamaki)  
HAYASHI, Masaki  
SATO, Tomoko (Hayashi)  
HIGUCHI, Ruth (Kikuta)



Table A-13

Standing

FUJII, Alfred  
HAYASE, Hanako (Shiozaki)  
FITZGERALD, Janet (Ohno)  
HARPER, Nelson  
MOTOYOSHI, Yoshiyuki

Seated

FUJII, Louisa (Egami)  
HARADA, Tomiko (Shinozaki)  
NAKAMURA, Lucy (Kakugawa)  
HARPER, Sumaka (Ohno)  
MOTOYOSHI, Sakaye



Table A-14

Standing

KAI, Tak  
KAYA, George  
WADA, Yukio  
HORIGUCHI, Thomas

Seated

KAI, Frances  
TOMIYASU, Susie (Kaneshige)  
WADA, Yasuko (Isoye)  
HORIGUCHI, Rose (Shimoide)



Table A-15

Standing

UCHIZONE, Jiro  
SUNADA, Yoshito Fred  
SHOJI, James  
YUSA, George

Seated

ICHINOSE, Toshio  
UCHIZONE, Toy (Yamamoto)  
SUNADA, Maysuye (Tamaki)  
SHOJI, Jane (Kurokawa)  
YUSA, Sue







Table A-16

Standing

MORI, Itsuki  
MORI, Forrest  
MORI, Paul  
SUZUKI, Dr. Tadao  
YAMADA, Akira

Seated

MORI, Kikkie  
MORI, Priscilla  
MORI, Sarah  
SUZUKI, Chiyoko  
YAMADA, Mika



Table A-17

Standing

FITZPATRICK, Robert  
TABATA, Masanobu  
KUMAGAI, Dick  
TABATA, Mark  
HOTTA, June

Seated

FITZPATRICK, Eileen (Tabata)  
TABATA, Sue (Yamagami)  
KUMAGAI, Lily  
KUMAGAI, Steven  
HOTTA, Michi



Table A-18

Standing

SATO, Nancy  
MANO, Masaru  
MANO, Aki  
HAYWOOD, Jan (Odano)  
ODANO, Tosh

Seated

SATO, Marj  
MANO, Kimino  
MANO, Jenny  
CARREON, Dale (Odano)  
ODANO, Mary



Table A-19

Standing

FUJIMOTO, Walt  
KANEMURA, Sam  
NIMURA, Audrey  
WRIGHT, Russ

Seated

FUJIMOTO, Chio (Amai)  
KANEMURA, Aya (Okubo)  
NIMURA, Megan  
WRIGHT, Judi  
KUMAMOTO, Miki (Amai)



Table A-20

Standing

MUNENO, Donald  
MUNENO, Ted  
GRAY, Jeanne (Muneno)  
MURAI, Grace (Kanzaki)  
KANZAKI, Arthur

Seated

MUNENO, Tomiye  
MUNENO, Naomi  
KAWAGUCHI, Carolyn (Muneno)  
KARNER, Judy (Muneno)  
KANZAKI, Lillian



Table A-21

Standing

MATSUOKA, George  
YAMAMOTO, Ed  
TSUNODA, Larry

Seated

MATSUOKA, Kimi (Ryono)  
YAMAMOTO, Amy (Matsuoka)  
LAWSON, Carolyn  
POTTER, Jane (Kawazoe)







Table A-22

Standing

IRIYAMA, Masao  
KUWABARA, Henry  
MURASHIGE, George

Seated

IRIYAMA, Matsuko (Tabata)  
TOYODA, Mary (Kuwabara)





## **PERSPECTIVE ON THE 50-YEAR REUNION** **of the** **Closing of Gila River Relocation Center**

The 50-Year Reunion of the closing of the Gila River Relocation Center on March 17, 18, and 19 of 1995 was an unexpected success. That happy occasion was probably aided by the coming together of several favorable factors.



Normally the Gila River Indian community guards its privacy and its lands with a determination which made us somewhat apprehensive as to whether they would grant us permission to build modest monuments dedicating the 50-year anniversary of the closure of the Gila River Relocation Center. From the very beginning of our numerous negotiations, we were received with enthusiasm and support. With the assistance of Governor Mary Thomas of the Gila River Indian Community and staff members, Urban Giff, Fred Ringlero, Luis Kiyitan, and a whole host of others who helped us thread our way through the Indian bureaucracy, we secured the necessary approval to erect monuments at Canal, Butte, and the Gila River

Arts and Crafts Center. Furthermore, each indicated a desire to participate in the various ceremonies that were outlined. Joe Allman, who was uniquely qualified, met with the Indian community numerous times and carried out all the negotiations. At each stage of progress various Indians voluntarily came forth to testify that their lives had been changed by their contact with Gila River Relocation Center internees. One person recalled receiving her first doll from an internee friend; another swears that a "Jap" doctor saved her life with an operation. A third recounted that she receives inspiration from the brave spirit of an oppressed people that had been held in a concentration camp. This woman went on to achieve material and political success in the general society. She further related that she would be married at the Butte Memorial site. Testimonial after testimonial cemented our cause for a successful reunion.

Noticeable, too, was the full participation of American Legion Post 84, the presence of two Gila River Medical Evacuation teams, and the Tribal Rangers assuring that the reunion participants would have a safe, secure and peaceful event.

The second success factor of note is the participants themselves. The Reunion Committee was not sure how many and how strongly evacuees would participate. By the final closing, 1150 people had been registered and we reluctantly had to shut out many more who wished to be included. It was necessary to add another room to accommodate the overflow for the banquet.





Returnees from all over the United States brought their photos, dreams, memories and expectations and whole-heartedly participated in each event.

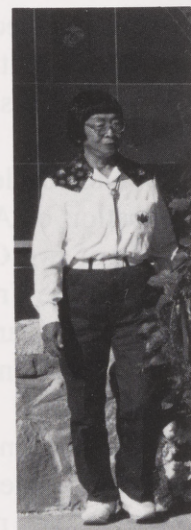
The third factor adding to the success of the event was an early recognition that this could not be accomplished without professional help. The selection of Tour Director Peggy Glenn was critical. She dealt with four different bus companies, trained the tour guides, ordered obento from two different sushiyas and stimulated them into a competition as to who could furnish the best obento for the prearranged price.

Factor four was the Arizona weather. It hit 90° but most people found it bearable. It was just warm enough to incite an element of fear about rattlesnakes. This added some suspense to the dedication events.

The final factor was the personnel of the Reunion Committee and its various sub-committees. We were scattered from Arizona to Hawaii and through Central and Southern California. We met a number of times at Sei Dyo's in Los Angeles but we kept in contact by mail. Helen Mishima and Sei Dyo contributed valuable experience by defining parameters and guided us from pitfalls. Sei and his publication committee were proficient in setting up the necessary publications. Ideas that came in from all over the country were filtered, digested and discussed. The vital position of treasurer was filled by retired CPA accountant, Ben Inoshita. Jim Kubota took a personal interest in the monument markers. He designed the monuments and kept the costs in line with the original projections. Jim was working up to the final evening before the unveiling ceremony. He covered the Canal monument on the prior evening but during the night the yearlings licked off the cloth resulting in an instant program adjustment. When asked why an Amache internee would take such an interest in a Gila River reunion, his reply was "Someone worked on the Amache monument and dedication for me. At least I can help you Gilans."



Ben Inoshita, Jim Kubota, Mas Inoshita, Harry Yasumoto, Joe Allman and Sei Dyo



Helen Mishima



Two amateur archaeologists, Bud and Charlotte Edgars, worked tirelessly to uncover artifacts and post signs designating block locations or interesting sites. As soon as they posed the markers, the cows took them down. Many of the spots were again marked several times. Their knowledge of the Gila River Relocation Center is a treasure.



The success of the 50th Reunion for the closing of the Gila River Relocation Center was like the convergence of small tributaries into the Colorado River. There could be no other result than success.

*Memories  
of the Reunion*



The monument's mission is to preserve the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The monument is managed by the National Park Service, which is part of the Department of the Interior. The monument is located in the state of Maryland and covers an area of approximately 1,000 square miles. The monument is home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, fish, and mammals. The monument is also a popular destination for tourists and visitors who want to enjoy the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay.



and now it is  
dedicated to  
the monument.  
We are  
dedicated to  
the monument.  
The monument  
is a place  
where we can  
enjoy the  
natural beauty  
of the Chesapeake  
Bay.



Chesapeake Bay National Monument





ABRAHAM - Susan, Alex (Christina)



ADAMS - John



ADAMS - Joe, Ed



ADAMS - Mary (Christina)



ADAMS - John, Mary



CANTANER - Sam (Christina), Tom



ADAMS - Mary (Christina)



ADAMS - John, Mary



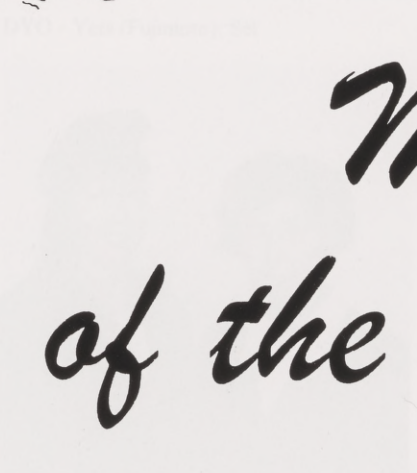
ADAMS - John, Mary



# *Memories of the Reunion*



ADAMS - Mary (Christina)

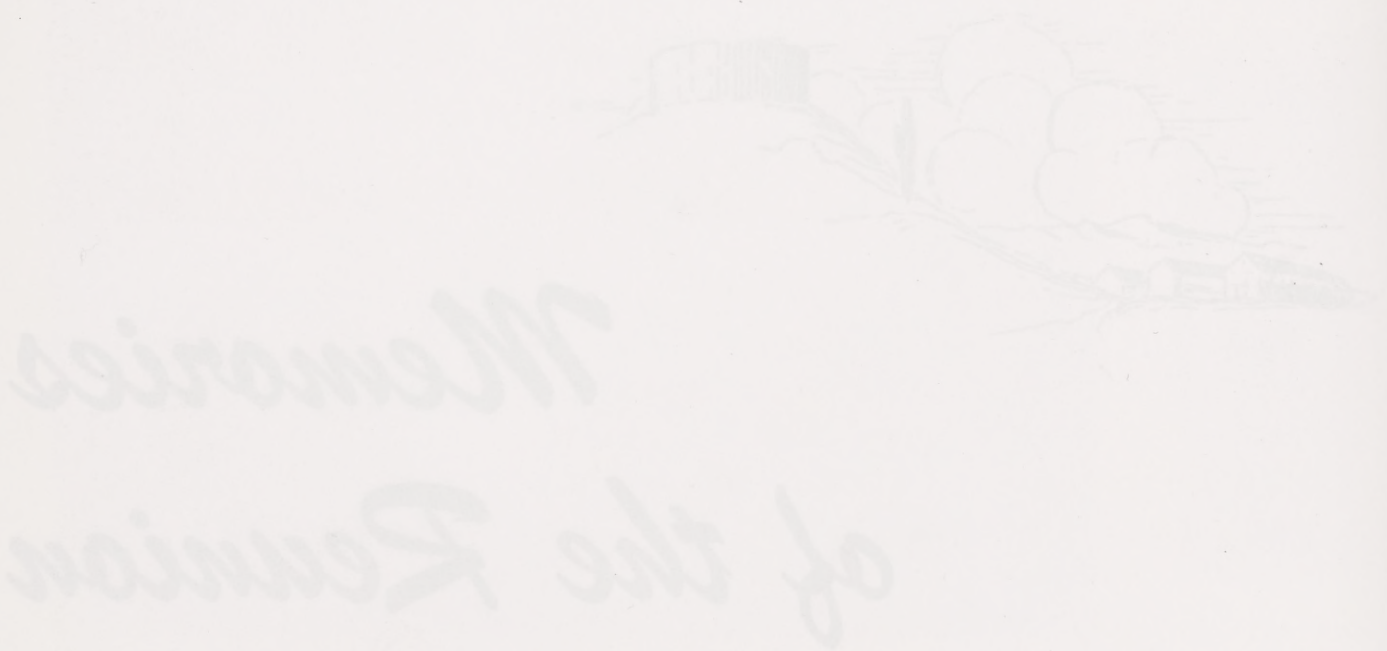


ADAMS - John, Mary



ADAMS - John, Mary





A

BO

DY

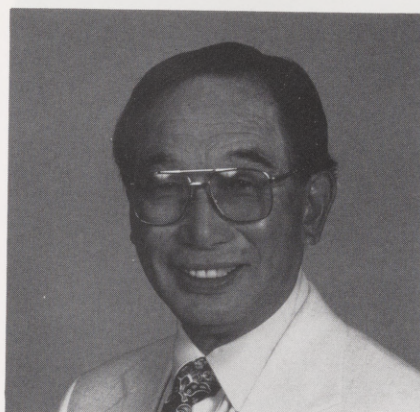
EG



## PORTRAITS



ABBOTT - Sharon, Alice (Sameshima)



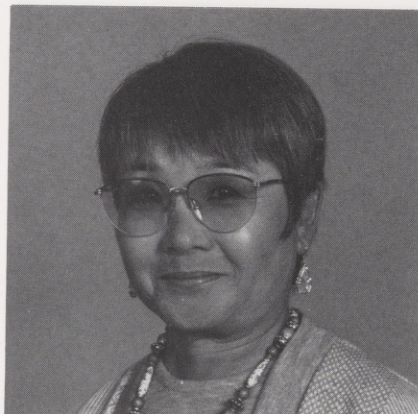
ABE - James



ARATANI - Jiro, Lily



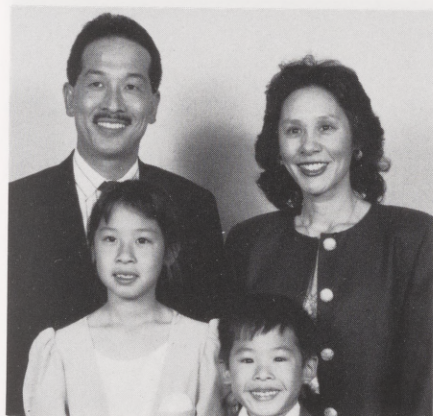
BOAZ - Betty (Kuwano)



BUTSUMYO - Aiko Boots



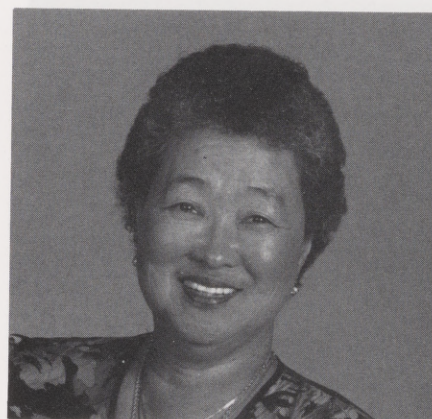
CASTANEDA - Sumi (Kawamoto), Vince



DYO - Gary, Stephanie, Michelle, Jeffrey



DYO - Yets (Fujimoto), Sei



EBISUZAKI - Masako



EGUSA - Morey, Michie



ENDO - Grace Mona, Misako (Shimamura)



ENDOW - Kazie (Tsunoda), Toru





ENGBRETSON - Nancy Hisako (Shiosaki)  
GOLDEN - Yoshiko (Maeyama)



FITZPATRICK - Eileen (Tabata), Robert



FUJII - Louisa (Egami), Alfred



FUJIMOTO - Chio (Amai), Walter



FUKAI - Mas



FUKUTAKI - Kobo, Edgar



FUKUYAMA - JoAnn, Leo



FUKUZAWA - Namiye, Michito F.



FUNO - Fumi (Yanagihara), Mas



FURUKAWA - Tets



FURUTA - Midge (Hosaki)

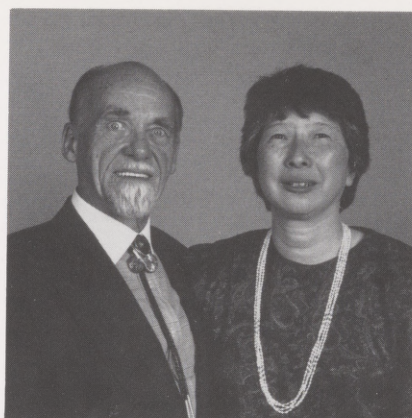


GOEBEL - Susan (Yoshimoto), Gary





ROLLINS - Isabel Cathy  
GOLDEN - Patricia M.



GOOGINS - Tom, Mabel



GOYA - Nancy Sakae (Kaita), Kazuji C



HAMAMOTO - Ben, Susie (Furukawa)



HAMAMOTO - Fusako (Tsunoda)



HAMASAKI - Cyndy M., Tomo



HAMASAKI - Helen S., Milton



HAMASAKI - Tsugino (Nagasawa)



HANYU - Yaeko (Sakai), Noboru



HATANAKA - Sada, Howard

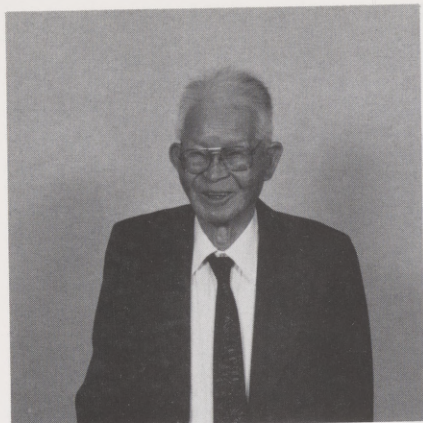


HAYAKAWA - Flo, Masami



HAYASHI - Ken, June (Shirozu)





HAYASHI - Masaki



HAYASHI - Shigeo, Kinuko (Yamane)



HAZAMA - Yosh, Nobie



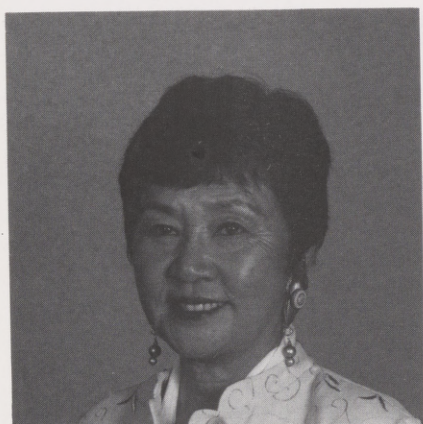
HIFUMI - Sadie (Inatomi), Fred



HIRABAYASHI - Sam, Betty T. (Yahanda)



HIRAI - Atsuko  
NARUMI - Beverly (Omori)



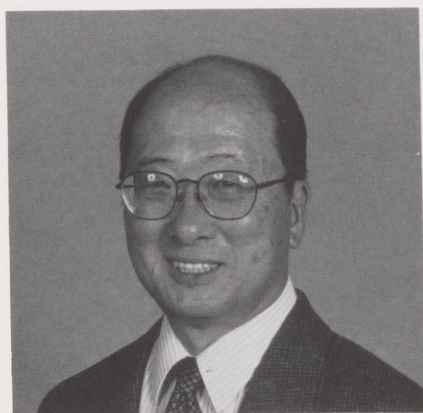
HIRAI - Louise (Ide)



HIRAKAMI - Evelyn, Herky



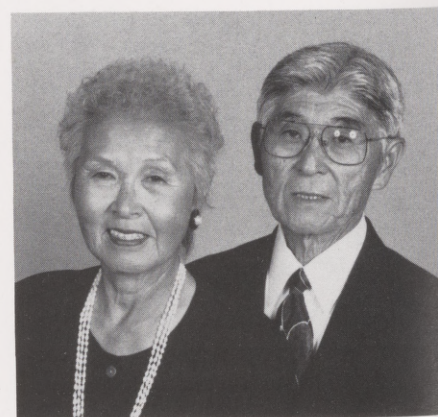
HIRANO - Yoshi M., Yoshi



HIROTO - Hoover



HONDA - Miyo (Tanaka)



HORII - Chita (Iwamoto), Harry I.





HORITA - Kay Kiyoko (Kawamoto), Ben



HOSHIDE - Alice F. (Kihara)



HOTTA - Mary M. (Furukawa), Steve



HUXLEY - Mary A. (Taniguchi)



ICHINOSE - Toshio



IKEDA - George, Chiyo



IKEDA - Lillie (Ide)



IKEDA - Yas, Bob



IMADA - Ray, Yone (Yonekawa)



IMAGIRE - Gloria (Saika), Arthur



INN - Kiyoko P. (Tsudama), Harry H.



INOSHITA - Masaji, Betty (Kuwahara)





INOUE - Jean (Mura), Taro



IRIYAMA - Matsuko (Tabata), Masao



ISHIBASHI - Eiko (Hamasaki), Daniel



ISHIBASHI - Nobu (Tanaka)  
SHIOTA - Masako (Tanaka)



ISHII - Ruth (Ishimine), Jimmy H.



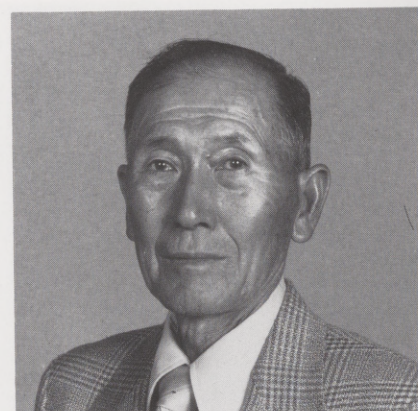
ISHII - Josephine M., Tom T.



ITAMURA - Gladys (Takenouchi), Akio



ITO - Setsuo, Torie (Yamaguchi)



IWAI - Gary Y.



JIOBU - Robert, Karen (Yoshimoto), Eric



KAI - Tak, Frances



KAJI - Hugo, Marion (Kuwahara)





KAJI - James, Dorothy (Kuwahara)



KANAGAKI - Kin, Alice (Noguchi)



KANEMOTO - Hank H., Aiko



KATO - Fumiko (Yamamoto), Akira



KATSURA - Roy R., Etsuko R.



KAWAHARA - Danny, May



KAWAMURA - Miyeko (Murata), Kumi



KAWANO - Mary (Saika)



KAWAUCHI - Sam



KEIMI - Amy Emiko (Harada), Albert



KIHARA - Ann T. (Mineno), George



KITAGAWA - Howard, Celeste





KOBATA - Harold, Haruko (Fujimoto)



KOBAYASHI - Robert, Itsie (Hamasaki)



KODAMA - George, Fujiko (Hamasaki)



KOJIMA - Mary (Yamauchi)



KOMOTO - Roy



KUBO - Yone, Chizu (Matsuura)



KUIDA - Machi, Min Walt



KUMAGAI - Dick, Steven, Lily



KUMAMOTO - Audrey, Miki (Amai), Megan



MILLER - Lohring  
KURAMITSU - Yayoe



KUWAHARA - May Yuriko  
ISHIKAWA - Haruko (Kuwahara)



MAENO - Alice, Margaret





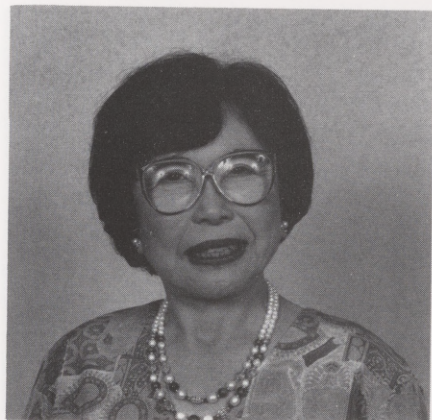
MAKINO - Jimmy, Masayo



MANO - Kimino, Masaru



MASAI - Chico



MASAOA - Mary Ann (Sakamoto)



MAToba - Alice (Kodama), Jody



MATSUDA - Stella S., Hisashi



MATSUMOTO - Marjorie



MATSUNAGA - Helen (Morita), Ronald



MATSUOKA - Kimiyo (Ryono), George



MATSUSHIMA - Mary Fumiyo (Oda), Ted

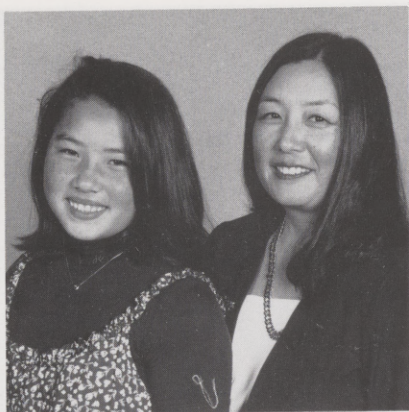


MATSUSHIRO - Shiyeko (Murata), Frank



MATSUURA - Nancy (Aoki), Ben





MAY - Karen, Akemi



MAYEDA - Sadako, Henry



McCABE - Nobuko E. (Matsuda)



MEYER - Hiroko (Ii), Gary



MIYA - Kazuo, Edith (Oda)



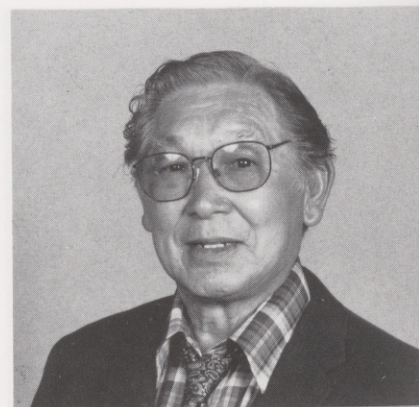
MIYADA - Michi (Itomura)  
NISHINAKA - Angel (Itomura)



MIYAMOTO - Aki (Sato), Ham



MIYAMOTO - Toshi (Oshima), Mikio



MIZUKI - Hiro



KITAGAWA - Takeo  
MORI - Toshiko (Kitagawa)



MORI - Yoshiko J.



MORITA- Fred, Lillie (Murotsune)





MORIWAKI - Doaks Noriyoshi,  
Mae (Kurihara)



MUNENO - Naomi, Ted



MURATA - Emi, James



MUROSUNE - Ester S., Roy S.



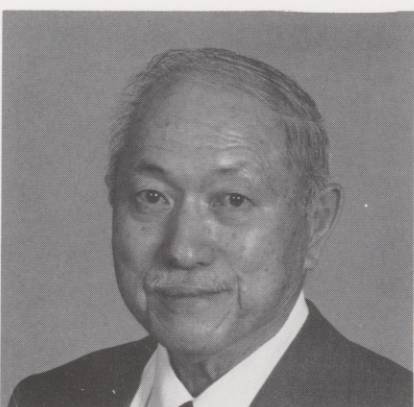
NAGAHORI - Ami E., Henry M.



NAGAI - Ronald A., Carol A. (Oishi)



NAGATA - Roy, Nancy Y. (Morikawa)



NAGATA - Walter S.



NAGAYAMA - Masako (Higa), Takashi



NAITO - Koko Chris (Nomura)



NAKAGAWA - Helen (Sakata), Dave



NAKAGAWA - Kiyoko (Butsumyo), Ken





NAKAGAWA - Roy M., Mary M. (Wada)



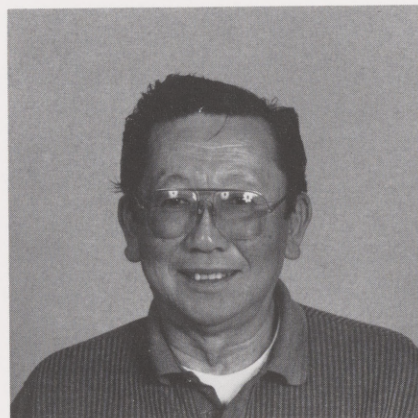
NAKAJI - Miyo (Yamada), Steve



NAKAMURA - Hatsumi Hatsie (Matoba), Sam S.



NAKAMURA - Joanne (Masuhara), Mark



NAKANO - Don



NAKANO - Rubie, Yosh



NAKANO - Yayoi (Nishikawa)



NISHI - Florence (Masai)



NISHIJIMA - Sachi (Hashigami), KATAI - Yuri (Hashigami) ; HASHIGAMI - Sets



NISHIMURA - Shiz (Kawamoto)



NISHIOKA - Yoko (Sakamoto), Akira



NISHIURA - Takako (Kitagawa) Takao

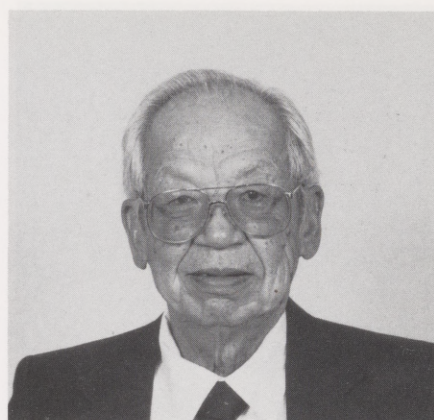




NITA - Mary, Mark



NOMURA - George Masaki,  
Jean Akiko (Nakano)



NOMURA - Sho



NOSE - Akira, Yulie (Kiyasu)



OBERHOLTZER - Linda (Nakamura), Jay



OCHI - Jack, Suzi (Tamura)



OGATA - Tats (Matsushita)  
KATO - Chibbie (Shiimori)



OGINO - Tak, Jean (Asamoto)



OISHI - Florence (Hayashi), Donald



OISHI - Jiro, Anna (Makino)

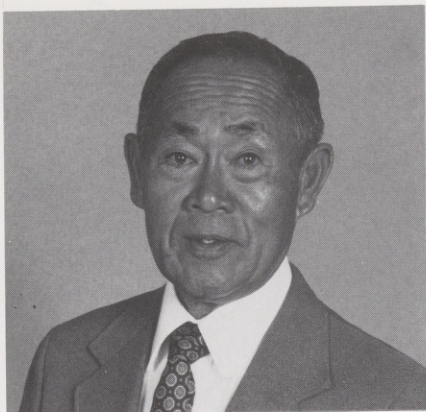


OKAZAKI - Julie, Yukie



OMORI - Nancy (Hiranaka), Kazuo





OSADA - Ralph



OTAMURA - Kathryn (Kihara), Howard



OTANI - Mary  
ARGYLE - Douglas, Brett, Linda (Otani)



OUCHI - George, Kimie



OUCHI - Hisa, Ichiro



OZAWA - Betty (Tamaki)



SAIKO - Kazuo, Emiko (Noda)



SAKAGUCHI - Sally, Minoru



SAKAMOTO - Frank, Toshiko



SAKANIWA - Margaret (Ikeda), Tanny



SAKOI - Sachi, Mas



SAMESHIMA - Hitoshi





SANO - Barney, Mae (Wada), Lisa



SATO - Carol, Hank



SATO - Tomoko (Hayashi), Bill



SEIJII - June, Hideo



SHIBATA - Kaoru, Mariko (Kusaka)



SHIBATA - Reiko (Yoshimura)



SHIMAHARA - Satsumi (Yoshida)  
WATANABE - Tomoye (Yoshida)



SHIMIZU - Shizuye (Inoshita)



SHIMOIDE - Yoneko (Hayashi), Kaoru



SHISHIDO - Reiko (Omori)

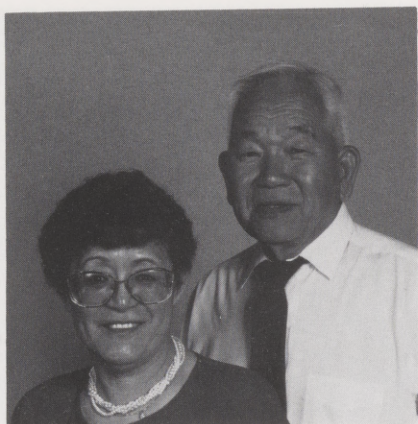


SHOJI - Jane (Kurokawa), James



SUGIMOTO - Fred, Tsuzuye Susie (Oda)





SUGITA - Marie (Hoshino), Yoshifumi



SUNADA - Maysuye (Tamaki), Yoshito Fred



SUSU-MAGO - Jean, Douglas



SUZUKI - Chiyoko, Tadao



TABATA - Mark, Sue (Yamagami), Masanobu



TAIRA - Kimi (Butsumyo)



TAJIMA - Setsuko, Ted



TAKAO - Sueko (Inouye)



TAKASUGI - Nao, Judy (Mayeda)



TAKEMOTO - Bill, Shizuko (Koyanagi)



TAKENO - Toshi



TAKETA - Kazuto, Yoshiko





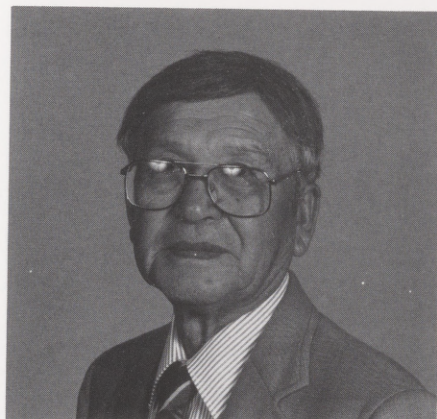
TAKUSAGAWA - Emiko (Yato), Hiroshi



TAKUSAGAWA - Helen Miyuki (Inai), Kazuo



TAMURA - Grace (Hayashida), Tom Nob



TAMURA - Jim



TAMURA - Yeiko (Uyeno), Yosh



TANABE - Sumi (Taniguchi), Art



TANAKA - Bessie (Ide), George



TANAKA - Jim, Tomi (Matoba)



TANAKA - Lillian (Tanigawa), Frank



TANG - Marilyn (Inoshita), Alan



TANIGUCHI - Aiko (Kawamoto), Robert



TANIGUCHI - Rui, Frank





DAHLEN - Janis (Tonooka)  
TONOOKA - Ben



TOYODA - Dorothy (Doi)  
YOSHIDA - Joyce (Toyoda)



TSUDAMA - Gary



TSUDAMA - Minoru



TSUTSUI - Shiz, Sam



UYEMURA - Etsuko (Fujimoto), Tadao E.



UYENO - Aiko (Shintani), Sadao



WAKAGAWA - Chisato (Sakoi), Sho



WAKAMOTO - Sharon (Kobata), Charles



WONG - Ruth (Kamon)



YAHANDA - Alfred, Hoyoko (Migaki)



YAMADA - Mika, Akira





YAMAGUCHI - George, Kissie (Kamada)



YAMAICHI - Jimi, Eiko (Tanaka)



YAMAMOTO - Amy (Matsuoka), Edward



YAMAMOTO - Bob



YAMAMOTO - Etsuko (Hamasaki), Takeo



YAMAMOTO - Shizuko, James



YAMAMOTO - Yo (Kamiya), Todd



YAMAMOTO - Yoshiko  
YOSHIMURA - Tootsie (Yamamoto)



YAMASAKI - Youko (Yoshimura)



YAMASHIRO - Hideo P.



YAMASHITA - Karie (Koga), Calvin



YAMAUCHI - Linda (Kobata), Gary





YAMAUCHI - Tom, Kimii (Nagata)



YAMAZAKI - Rev. John



YANAGISAKO - Ford, Nancy (Ikeda)



YASAKI - Ayako (Muraoka), Masao



YETO - June



YOKOGAWA - Ida (Ikeda)



YOKOYAMA - Clara (Seiji), George



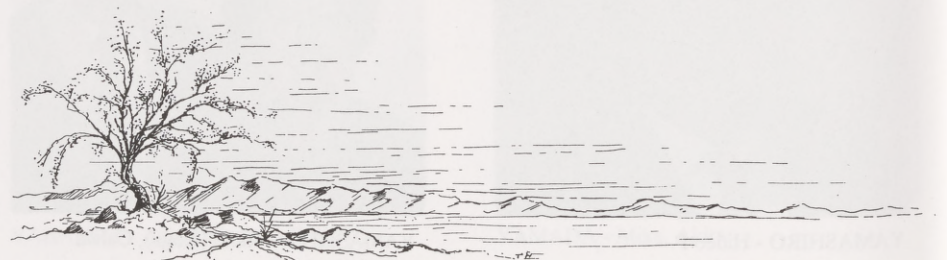
ESAKI - George, Jean (Oishi)



HANADA - Terry, Janice (Dyo), Tara



YUSA - Sue, George







ABE - Norman  
HIGA - Itsy (Iwamura), Roy



ANDO - Sets (Heyano)  
KIMOTO - Shiz (Heyano)  
HEYANO - Hanako



DYO - Nolan, Cindy, Ron, Shaun



FUJII - Frank, Dorothy (Nomura), Bob



GRAY - Jeanne (Muneno)  
MUNENO - Donald, Tomiye  
KARNER - Judy (Muneno)  
KAWAGUCHI - Carolyn (Muneno)

HAMASAKI - Cynthia, Tomo  
KOBAYASHI - Itsie, Robert  
ISHIBASHI - Daniel, Eiko  
HAMASAKI - Tsugino  
KODAMA - Fudge, George  
YAMAMOTO - Etsuko, Tak







HAYASHI - Carol, Warren,  
Jane (Tanaka)



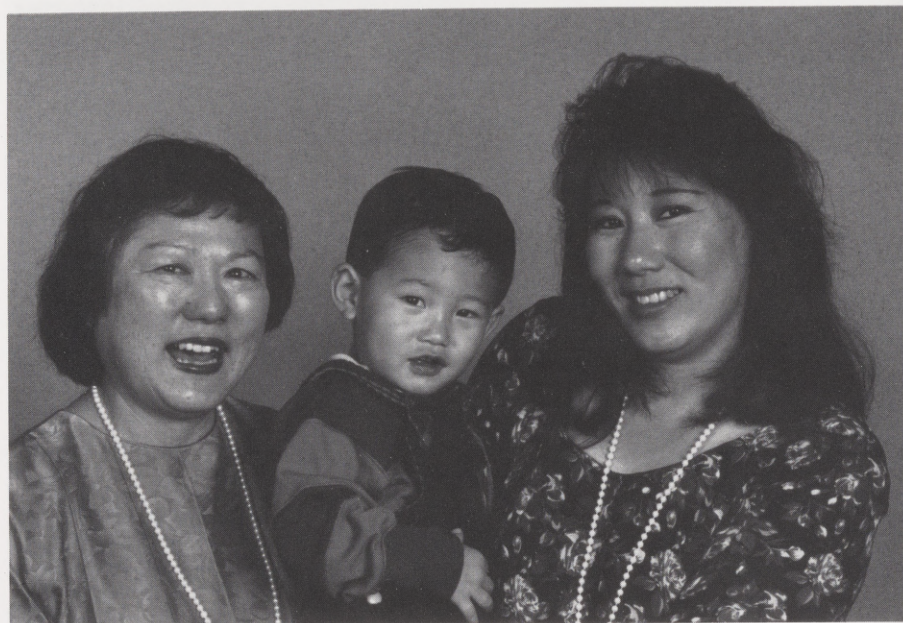
HAYWOOD - Tyler, Jan (Odano)  
CARREON - Dale (Odano), Alfonso



HONMA - Scott, June (Hoshida), Hideo



IGE - Kay (Yamamoto)  
MATSUMOTO - Kyle, Julee (Ige)



INOSHITA - Kathy, Minoru, Sandra

KANEMURA - SAM, Ayako  
ITOMURA - Dick, Shirley







KANZAKI - Lillian, Arthur  
MURAI - Grace (Kanzaki)

KITAMURA - Yoko (Kusaka)  
STARR - Kay (Kusaka)  
KUSAKA - Kiyoshi  
SHIBATA - Mariko (Kusaka)



MALLOY - Tammy (Yamamoto)  
YAMAMOTO - Bill, Enid



MORI - Paul, Kikkie, Itsuki Joe,  
Sarah, Forrest, Priscilla



NAGAI - Ronald, Carol  
NAKAMURA - Harumi  
KAMIMURA - Robyn, Eunice  
NAGAI - Hamako, Akira

NAKAMURA - Daniel  
STINSON - Paula  
NAKAMURA - Grace (Shinoda), Yosh







RESTON - Allison  
YAMAZAKI - Sidney, Kathleen, Jeanine

SHIGEMATSU - Jean (Naganuma)  
NAGANUMA - George, Claudine



SMITH - Tristine (Grimes)  
GRIMES - Shizuko (Nagao)  
PETERSON - Tiza (Grimes)



SUGAI - Leslie, Barbara (Tsutsui),  
Tom, Kit, Michele  
OKIMURA - Glenn



SUYEYASU - Ann (Yamashita), Deborah  
BABINEAU - Bryan

TAKATA - Annie (Tanaka)  
TANAKA - Hideki  
ISHIBASHI - Nobuko (Tanaka)  
SHIOTA - Masako (Tanaka)  
TANAKA - Kiyoko, Yukio

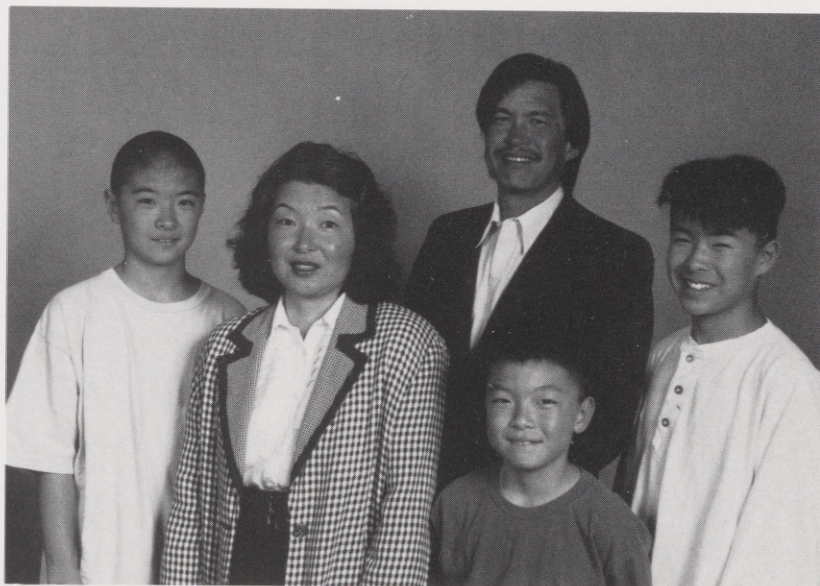






TAMAKI - Ben  
KIKUCHI - George  
HAYASHI - Haruo

TANIGUCHI - Troy, Sharyn, Dennis,  
Si, Scott



TOTSUBO - Geri, Ronald  
HAMANO - Jamie  
TOJI - Robert, Suzanne  
NISHIKAWA - Kirk  
TOTSUBO - Kasue  
TOJI - Marcus  
TOTSUBO - Jack



WAI - George, Kazuye (Takeda), Diane



YAMAMOTO - Alice (Miyake)  
 ICHIKAWA - Michi (Yamamoto)  
 YOKOTA - Frances (Hikida)

YOKOTA - Alice, Sanaye (Katako), Lance





















*'My parents were there and it was just another adventure'*



Staff photo by NANCY NEWMAN-BAUER

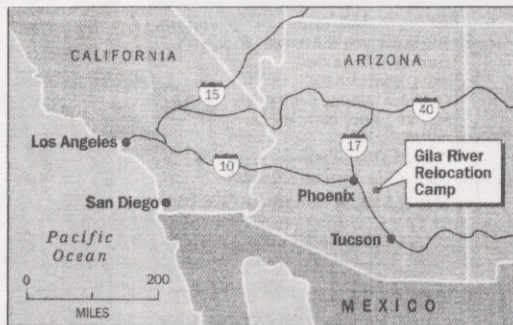
**NOMURA FAMILY** members, from left, Fumiko Christine Naito, her parents Michy and Taka Nomura of Pasadena, and her uncle, Sho Nomura are not bitter about their time at Gila, Ariz.

## BITTERSWEET REUNION

By Susan Gill  
STAFF WRITER

**H**ome. Prison. Togetherness. Isolation. Patriot. Spy.

Those are the contradictions that many Japanese Americans learned to live with when they were forced to move to remote camps far from their homes after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.



Staff graphic by TODD TRUMBULL

They fashioned family quarters in hastily erected wooden barracks in the blistering deserts of Arizona, and fought to maintain a normal life in a place that was fenced off with barbed wire and guarded by an armed sentinel in a tower.

At meal times they stood in long lines at the mess hall. Families as well as bachelors and single women were packed in barracks, sometimes without partitions between them.

Finally, they believed that their actions in evacuating peacefully would prove their loyalty to America. But newspaper headlines and politicians continued to label them potential traitors and saboteurs.

Despite all that, a group of 1,140 people — including many from our area — are leaving Friday to celebrate the closing 50 years ago of the Gila River Relocation Camp in Arizona, about 40 miles south of Phoenix.

Gila River was one of 10 camps in the United States where the government sent about 120,000 West Coast

Japanese Americans after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's evacuation order on Feb. 19, 1942.

More than 16,000 internees lived at Gila River from the day it opened in July 1942 — making it the fourth

### ■ Who was the enemy? A11

largest city in Arizona — until it closed in November 1945.

Many who are returning are more nostalgic than bitter. They are curious to see the remnants of their temporary home, the once-familiar landmarks. They want to rededicate a monument to honor the Japanese Americans who died fighting for America during World War II.

And they want to reacquire themselves with the people whose lives touched theirs for a short and memorable time.

Please turn to pages A8 and A9 for more about the Nomuras and other local families who are going back to Gila, Ariz., this week.



THE NOMURAS at Gila, Ariz., camp.

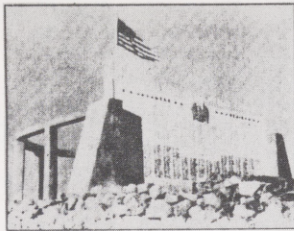
\$1 plus tax

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

SUNDAY

March 12, 1995





**THE ORIGINAL** Gila, Ariz., internment camp monument

### THE NOMURAS

**M**ICHY and Taka Nomura are firm believers that you don't let a difficult situation get in the way of a normal family life.

And that positive attitude has rubbed off on their daughter, Christine Naito.

When asked about her introduction to life in the Gila River Relocation Camp when she was 2½, Christine displayed an amazing memory for details.

"It was very, very hot," she said, smiling as she talked. "Too hot to go barefoot. We ate at a huge mess hall and I couldn't understand why the curry was green. I also remember not drinking the water. I don't think I explained to my parents why I didn't drink it. But it smelled."

How intimidating was the camp for the toddler nicknamed Coco?

"I wasn't scared at all," Christine said, glancing at Michy and Taka, who were sitting across from her in the living room of their Pasadena home. "My parents were there and it was just another adventure."

That is typical Nomura behavior: balance the negative with the positive.

When faced with mealtimes at crowded mess halls, the family often would stand in the long lines for their food and then take it back to their barracks.

"We always tried to eat together," said Michy, 79, who supported his family at Gila by working as a butcher for \$16 a month and making camouflage nets for the military.

He still works as a buyer for a Pasadena electronics company.

And living in a dusty camp in the middle of nowhere was certainly no excuse for Christine to look anything but her best.

"My mother raised me to be immaculate," said Christine, now 55 and the owner of a car leasing company in Little Tokyo. She has two grown children and lives in Eagle Rock.

"I wore white shoes and starched pinafores," she remembered. "You'll

# BITTERSWEET REUNION

West San Gabriel Valley family joins others traveling to Gila, Ariz., to revisit internment camp 50 years after its closure

BY SUSAN GILL

STAFF WRITER



Photo courtesy Nomura family

**THE BELONGINGS** of many local Japanese American families headed for internment camps far from the San Gabriel Valley await shipment at the Santa Fe train station in Pasadena.

see pictures of me and I just didn't get dirty."

Why are the Nomuras looking forward to returning to Gila for the 50th year reunion of its closing?

To see old friends, for one thing.

"The camp offered the younger generation a great opportunity to meet new people and make lasting friendships because we were thrown together like that," said Shō Nomura, 76, of Sierra Madre, Michy's brother.

Shō worked as a firefighter at Gila for three months before he joined the U.S. Army, graduated from a language translation school and was sent first to India and then

to China.

Taka Nomura plans to look for the cement fish pond Michy built.

"I think that would be exciting to see," Taka said.

Michy and his friends would sneak out of the camp to a nearby canal to catch carp, Taka said.

Then she gave Michy a quizzical look and asked him where he got the cement for the pond. Such building materials were not something the internees could buy, she said.

"I really don't remember," Michy answered with a twinkle in his eye.

The couple's son, Stephen, 45, will not attend the reunion.

However much they joke, the

areas, Santa Maria, Oxnard and Fresno.

They first had a three-month stay in the Tulare, Calif. assembly center, one of the 15 converted county fairgrounds and horse stables used to house the Japanese Americans while the 10 relocation camps were being built. Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and Pomona Fairgrounds were used as assembly centers.

The Nomuras packed their suitcases and in May 1942 met other internees at the Santa Fe train station in Pasadena for the trip to Tulare.

"There was no privacy, whatever," said Taka, describing the Tulare center — the lack of partitions in the barracks and the women's restrooms.

The extended family that boarded the train to Gila four months later included Michy, Taka and Christine; Shō; Shō's and Michy's parents; and Taka's sisters, Tomi and Haruko. Another sister, Lillie, went to Manzanar.

Taka, whose faith and optimism at camp were bolstered by her Quaker background and the support of her friends in the movement, found her calling at Gila.

She started teaching preschool. "It was nice because Christine was able to go to school the same time I taught," said Taka.

Not all her memories of the school at Gila are positive.

"I remember we had benches without backs," she said. "I remember Christine leaned back and fell. All those little things bothered me."

After leaving camp, Taka went on to teach preschool at the Quaker-sponsored Pacific Oaks Children's School in Pasadena and then to become program director at the Mother's Club nursery school and parent-education center in Pasadena.

She recently wrote a book, "Taka Tips: Building Blocks for Parents," which was illustrated by Christine's daughter, Nicki Lou Naito Lew.

Christine, like her parents, is not bitter about the three-year interruption in their lives.

"When my parents talked about it years after, they said it was a terrible thing that happened and hopefully will never happen again," she said. "But it is no reason to hate the U.S. government."

Nomuras can't forget the sadness and frustration they felt when they were forced to leave their homes and business in 1942 amid all the anti-Japanese sentiment.

Michy, Shō and their father had to sell Sierra Produce, their successful wholesale produce business in San Gabriel.

"We were lucky in this area because we had some time before we were evacuated," Michy said. "But some poor people just had 48 hours to get out. See what you can sell in that time."

Most of those who were brought to Gila River had lived in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley

### MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," exhibit will be on display at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles through Oct. 15.

The exhibit includes photographs and artifacts from the various camps and detention facilities used during World War II. A barracks from the Heart Mountain, Wyo. camp is on display across the street from the museum.

The museum is located at 369 E. First St.

Hours are: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

Admission is \$4 adults; \$3 senior citizens and students ages 6-17; and free for children under 5 years.

For more information, call (213) 625-0414.



Eagle Rock.  
"I wore white shoes and starched pinafores," she remembered. "You'll

joined the U.S. Army, graduated from a language translation school and was sent first to India and then

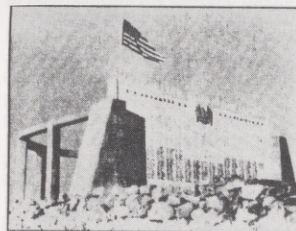
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Most of those who were brought to Gila River had lived in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley

A8 TNG-W

## COVER STORY

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1995



**THE ORIGINAL** Gila, Ariz., internment camp monument

### YOSHIO AND GRACE NAKAMURA

**Y**OSHIO Nakamura was 16 when a friend told him the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

"It seemed like a very foolish thing," said Nakamura, who later discussed those memories with his students at Rio Hondo Community College in Whittier.

"There aren't many times you can cut the tail off the tiger and live to talk about it," he added. "That's what happened. The attack made a sleeping giant come awake."

Until 1981, Yoshio and Grace, his wife of 44 years, were reluctant to dwell on their years in relocation camps during World War II — Yoshio at Gila River and Grace at Manzanar. Then, relatives and friends convinced the couple to testify at a federal hearing on reparations for the Japanese Americans who were detained in the camps.

That experience opened the floodgates for their memories and emotions.

And with their plans to attend the 50th reunion at Gila River, those recollections are back.

"One of the reasons to go back is for nostalgia — I've never been back to the camp in the past 50 years," said Yoshio, a longtime Whittier resident who retired in 1992 as vice president of community affairs at Rio Hondo College.

He began his Rio Hondo career as an art instructor in 1963, the year the college opened.

Most of the Japanese Americans who were brought to Gila River had lived in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley areas, Santa Maria, Oxnard and Fresno.

They first had a three-month stay in the Tulare, Calif. assembly center, one of the 15 converted county fairgrounds and horse stables used to house the Japanese Americans while the 10 relocation camps were being built. Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and the Pomona Fairgrounds were used as assembly centers.

# BITTERSWEET REUNION

## Whittier family joins others traveling to Gila, Ariz., to revisit internment camp 50 years after its closure

BY SUSAN GILL

STAFF WRITER



When the evacuation was ordered in 1942, Yoshio's father, a farmer and widower, was forced to give up the El Monte house he leased and to abandon his crop of fruits and vegetables, the family's two cars, horses and dog.

Yoshio has vivid memories of Tulare, where he was sent with his father, two brothers and sister.

"In some cases the asphalt was put over the manure in the stables," he said. "So during a warm day there was a certain aroma."

The family moved to Gila River in September 1942. And although the desert camp was a far cry from his El Monte home, Yoshio tried to make his life as normal as possible.

Even at camp, Yoshio said, he

concentrated on developing his skills in public speaking, student government and art.

"I've always had people who were behind me — helping me out," he said. "I've been very fortunate."

At El Monte High School he had been involved in student leadership programs. So he helped form a student government program at Gila.

He developed a crush on his typing teacher, an attractive Japanese American woman.

"To this day I don't remember if I took typing because I wanted to type or because she was attractive," said Yoshio, a soft-spoken, serious man who occasionally surprises his listeners with such quips.

Then he got serious.

"You couldn't escape the fact that you were prisoners," he added. "It was fine if you just concentrated on what you were doing — reading, or whatever. But periodically you had to look around. And you saw guards and towers."

After leaving Gila in 1943, he was inducted into the enlisted reserve. He fought in France and Italy with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and received the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation.

About the same time the Nakamuras were moving to Gila River, Grace Shinoda and her mother, grandmother and younger brother were on their way to Manzanar, a camp on the eastern slope of the Sierra in Owens Valley, Calif.

Grace is still haunted by the sight of elderly people being put on the train at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, some in stretchers, and a young couple trying to calm their four small children.

"It was very traumatic," she said. "How terrible it must have been for people with young families."

The lack of privacy at Manzanar was particularly distressing, said Grace, who was a teen living with her mother and brother in Highland Park at the time of the evacuation.

"They had families and bachelors all in one barrack," she said. "It was horrible. The parents were afraid to leave their teen-age daughters alone. We were lucky because (my family) had a room."

Other memories are not so sad, added Grace, who recently retired as a consultant for the Gifted and Talented Education Program (GATE) with the El Rancho School District in Pico Rivera.

There were the trucks from Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena that delivered sorely needed books to the camp's schools.

And her brother, Lawrence, exercising his artistic bent by making an arm chair with a reclining back from two wooden crates, using a rock for a hammer. The barracks did not have chairs or tables, so camp residents picked up scraps of wood for furniture wherever they could.

Lawrence Shinoda went on to design the classic 1963 Corvette Sting Ray.

"So something good came out of the camp — my brother designed

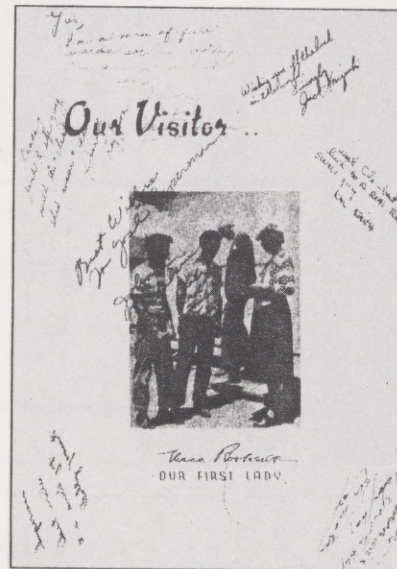
the Corvette," Grace said with a laugh.

There's another reason the Nakamuras want to return to Gila: they're bringing their daughter, Linda, an attorney who lives in Whittier, and son, Daniel, a NASA engineer and well-known origami artist who lives in Washington, D.C., to show them the history they lived.

Another son, Joel, a Monrovia artist, will not be able to attend.

It's a lesson the younger generation should learn to help ensure that the experience is never repeated, Yoshio said.

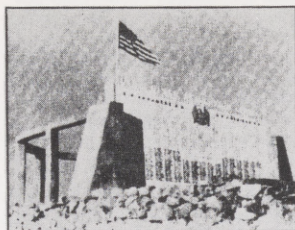
"People needed to find a scapegoat during World War II, and we happened to look like the enemy," he said, shaking his head. "I still think it was a terrible mistake."



Staff photos by NANCY NEWMAN-BAUER

**YOSHIO AND GRACE** Nakamura are surrounded by American history books that cover the internment years, including the 1943 Gila camp high school yearbook. A page from it, above, depicts Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to the camp.





**THE ORIGINAL** Gila, Ariz., internment camp monument

### CHICO MASAI

**C**HICO Masai still remembers his frustration when his friends in the Gila River Relocation Camp enlisted in the U.S. Army and were sent overseas.

There he was, ready to fight for his country. But he was just a high school student — too young to go to war, and stuck in a place where he couldn't add a few years to his age.

Now, 50 years later, that frustration is gone. What's uppermost in his mind is coordinating the Gila River reunion and Saturday's rededication ceremony for a monument honoring the 1,100 Japanese Americans from the camp who fought for America during World War II.

"We owe it to the guys who volunteered out of the camp, who went out from behind barbed wire fences to defend the country and prove their loyalty — because everybody was calling us traitors," said Masai, 66, of Covina.

"I owe it to them to restore that monument, even though it's way out in the desert, and not many people are going to see it," he added. "It makes me feel good that at least I did something to pay back."

When it was dedicated in 1944, Gila's Honor Roll Monument was a concrete structure with a wooden sign listing the names of the men and women from the camp who joined the military.

Many of them served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was comprised of Japanese Americans. The regiment, which fought several significant battles in Europe, was one of the most decorated combat units in World War II.

The years, the desert sun and some unthinking people have not been kind to the monument.

"There was a lot of graffiti and bullet holes on it, from people shooting at it," said Masai, a retired shift supervisor for Vons, and, with his wife, Say, a 31-year resident of Covina.

On Saturday, Masai will be there to help dedicate the restored monument. Instead of a sign naming all

# BITTERSWEET REUNION

East San Gabriel Valley man joins others traveling to Gila, Ariz., to revisit internment camp 50 years after its closure

BY SUSAN GILL

STAFF WRITER

the people who served, a plaque will be placed there listing the 23 former camp residents who were killed in action.

Say Masai, who was in Salt Lake City in 1942 and was not interned, will stay home to be with the couple's daughter, Kathy, who is expecting a baby. The Masais have three children, Kathy, Dawn and Mark.

Other events planned for the reunion are a barbecue on Friday and a tour on Saturday of the camp site.

Most of those who were brought to Gila River in 1942 had lived in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley areas, Santa Maria, Oxnard and Fresno.

They first had a three-month stay in the Tulare, Calif. assembly center, one of the 15 converted county fairgrounds and horse stables used to house the Japanese Americans while the 10 relocation camps were being built. Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and Pomona Fairgrounds were used as assembly centers.

Masai came to Gila River relatively late. Originally from Hanford, Calif., he had spent two years with his family at a relocation camp in Jerome, Ark., but was moved to Gila in 1944 when the Arkansas camp closed.

After leaving Gila, Masai got his wish — he enlisted in the Army in 1946. He served four years, including time working as a medic with the Occupation Forces in Japan.

"My friend in Philadelphia and I agreed that as soon as we graduated from high school we would enlist. I enlisted and then got a letter from him saying, 'I didn't enlist,'" Masai said with a chuckle.

At one time, the Gila camp housed barracks, Buddhist and Christian churches, schools, can-



Staff photo by TIZIANA SORGE

**CHICO MASAI** of Covina peers through the window of a bar-rack relocated to Los Angeles from Wyoming similar to the one he lived in during his internment at Gila, Ariz.

teens, the Gila News Courier newspaper office, a 250-bed hospital, a fire department and library.

There's not much to see any

more. All that's left are concrete floorings for the mess halls, laundry rooms, restrooms and administration buildings and remnants of the

fish ponds some of the residents built.

Masai and fellow reunion coordinator Joe Allman, a member of the Arizona chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, weren't surprised by the large number of people who wanted to come back.

"It's a milestone," Allman said. "Many of these folks are in their 70s and 80s. So this is sort of a last hurrah."

The U.S. government built the camp — consisting of the Butte and Canal sections — in 1942 on the Gila River Indian Reservation, without first getting the permission of the Pima Indians who lived there. The first groups of Japanese Americans were moved into the camp in August 1942, and permission from the Indians to use the land wasn't obtained until two months later.

Despite the U.S. land-grab, there are no hard feelings between the Indians and the Japanese Americans, Masai said. In fact, the Pimas gave their permission for the camp site tour.

These days, one of the questions Masai is asked most frequently about the camps, particularly by younger generations, is why the Japanese Americans went so peacefully.

It was a question of honor, he said.

"Our parents came from Japan, and their upbringing was different than people over here," he said. "They respected authority and they taught us, ever since we were small, to respect authority. So we didn't ask questions."

They also believed they were showing their loyalty.

"You can say all kinds of things and make yourself sound patriotic," Masai said. "And that doesn't mean anything. With your actions, what you do, you will prove whether you are loyal or not."



On Saturday, Masai will be there to help dedicate the restored monument. Instead of a sign naming all

At one time, the Gila River camp housed barracks, Buddhist and Christian churches, schools, can-

paper office, a 200-bed hospital, a fire department and library. There's not much to see any

morings, restrooms and administration buildings and remnants of the

STAR-NEWS

## QUOTED

*"This is the edge of the world."*

Ardell Furuta, 52, of San Francisco, who was born at Gila River, talking about her impressions of the camp site where Japanese Americans were interned during WW II. She attended a camp reunion with her parents, Tom and Anna Arita of Altadena.

# VOICES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1995

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Childlife and MenWomen  
will return next week

D1



**PATRIOTISM THEN AND NOW . . .** As they pledged allegiance to the American flag during camp dedication ceremonies Saturday, many Japanese Americans reflected on how they proved their loyalty to the country during World War II — by serving in the U.S. Army or going peacefully to the relocation camps. Many now talk about the things they love about this country, and try to put the past and their internment behind them.



**KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE . . .** As hundreds of people gathered above her for the dedication of the Gila River Honor Roll Monument, Cherry Tsutsumida has a solitary moment, gathering chaparral as a keepsake to remind her of the place where she spent four years of her life. Tsutsumida was 8 when she came with her family to live at Gila River.

# Tears, joy amid dusty memories





**SUCCESS** . . . Taka Nomura of Pasadena expresses her excitement at finding the fish pond her husband, Michy, built when they lived at the Butte camp in Gila River. Michy, 79, who watches with a smile, used to go out under the barbed wire fence at the camp to catch carp in a nearby canal.



**FAMILY MEMORIES** . . . Sho Nomura, 76, of Sierra Madre, and his daughter, Ann Nomura of South Pasadena, look over a photo album filled with pictures of the Nomuras at the Gila River camp. "The more I know about my family's experiences in the camp, the more I know about myself," said Ann, 44, a mother of two teen-agers.

"We were standing and singing the 'Star Spangled Banner.' And when they sang 'land of the free' I started crying because I knew that this land wasn't free when most of (the Japanese Americans) were here . . . But now it's so wonderful to see them happy, here with their children."

Jane Eckenstein Hartsook, 75, who taught physical education at the camp and is now a physical therapist in Salinas





**BAGGAGE** . . . Carrying the same heavy metal suitcase that held the family's belongings on their first trip to the Gila River camp in 1942, Michio and Taka Nomura arrive Friday in Phoenix for the 50th reunion. The number 23201 painted on the luggage is the family number the Nomuras were given more than 50 years ago.

## MEMORIES

Continued from D1

But the camp site trip was the most eagerly awaited event. It was here in the wooden barracks that many of the Japanese Americans bore and raised their children, made new friends or got married.

They had their special reasons to return — to see the site again for themselves or to share the experience with their spouses, children or grandchildren.

Taka Nomura of Pasadena was determined to find the concrete-and-rock fishing pond that her husband, Michio, had built when they lived in the camp with their daughter, Christine, then 2 1/2.

She succeeded.

"I'm so excited," Taka said Saturday as Michio pointed out the remains of the violin-shaped pond. "I can't believe it. Everybody said I wouldn't find it."

During an emotional ceremony atop the butte that divides the remains of the camp, Chico Masai of Covina realized a dream. With a solemn face and a military flourish,

he placed a wreath on the Gila River Honor Roll Monument.

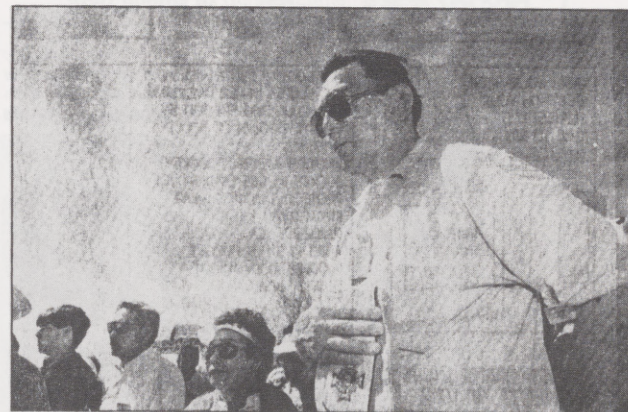
The monument, originally dedicated in 1944 but since defaced by vandals, was refurbished and rededicated Saturday to honor the 23 former camp residents who died fighting for America during World War II.

Two of the names on the bronze plaque were Pvt. Henry M. Kondo of Pasadena and Pvt. Min "Onion" Ishida of San Marino.

"I hope that since it's cleaned up and everything, people will respect it," said Masai, 66. "The plaque is on the monument now and they'll know what it was for. I think they will respect that. If they don't, we did our best."

Yoshio and Grace Nakamura of Whittier brought their son, Daniel, and daughter, Linda, and their spouses to the reunion to give them a firsthand view of history.

"I've always been curious about what my father did during the period," Daniel Nakamura, 37, of Washington, D.C., said as he walked through the camp site. "He didn't talk about it very much. Now it sort of comes into focus."



**MILITARY HONORS** . . . Chico Masai of Covina holds his military cap as he and others pray during the rededication ceremony for the Gila River Honor Roll Monument. Masai, 66, served in the U.S. Army for four years and was instrumental in coordinating the 50th reunion and the refurbishing of the monument.

Staff photos by Nancy Newman-Bauer

## Then and now — friendship is forever



**NEW FRIENDS** . . . From left, Ardell Arita, Christine Nomura and Linda Otani pose for a photograph taken by proud parents.

The most memorable thing about the reunion is just seeing all my old friends. It's been beyond my expectations. I'm surprised that so many people remember me.

Christine Naito,  
who was interned with her parents  
Michio and Taka Nomura



**OLD FRIENDS** . . . Re-creating a pose they struck for a photograph shortly after they were released from the Gila River camp 50 years ago, are from left, Ardell Furuta, 52, of South San Francisco; Christine Naito, 55, of Eagle Rock; and Linda Argyle, 53, of Whittier.



## 50 years later, trip back to camp is on their terms

**G**ILA RIVER, ARIZ. — It was a pilgrimage to the past, played out in a sparse desert landscape beneath a hot sun.

After warnings to watch out for rattlesnakes and scorpions, hundreds of Japanese Americans fanned out over the Arizona desert to look for bits of concrete foundation that marked what was left of their former homes.

Some carried colorful umbrellas to shield themselves from the searing heat. Others shook their heads knowingly when the wind kicked up swirls of dust. A few took a short break from their search to appreciate the beauty of the desert marigolds.

On Saturday, as many as 1,100 people converged on this desolate spot in the Gila River Indian Reservation to commemorate the 50 years since the U.S. government closed the Gila River Relocation Camp — one of 10 camps where a total of 120,000 Japanese Americans were sent after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

This time the trip was voluntary — a chance for



**VOLUNTARY TRIP . . .** A long line of buses brought about 1,100 Japanese Americans back to the Arizona desert site where they or their family members were interned 50 years ago. Unlike 1942, they had the freedom to come and go this time.

Newfound friends donned cowboy hats and red bandannas Friday night as they were reacquainted during a cowboy stage show at the Rockin' R Ranch in Mesa, Ariz. They slipped into more elegant attire Saturday night for a special banquet in Phoenix.

But the camp site trip was the most eagerly awaited.

former internees, ranging in age from their 50s to their 90s, to revisit an unforgettable time in their lives.

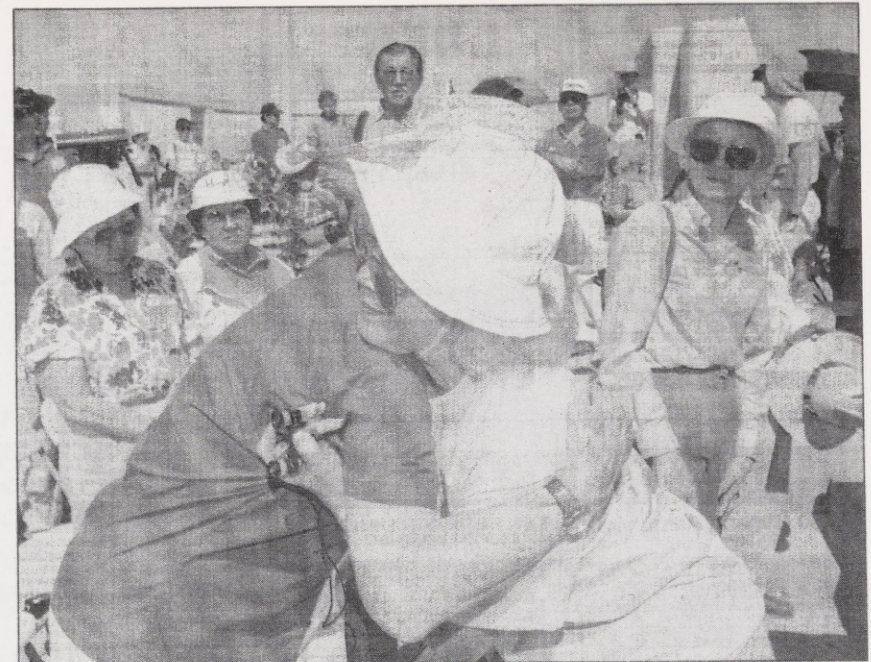
That wasn't the case in 1942, when they were forced to obey a presidential order that they pack only what they could carry and board trains taking them to the camps. More than 16,000 people lived at Gila River, which is about 40 miles south of Phoenix, between 1942 and 1945.

Saturday's excursion was just part of a weekend celebration that brought tears and expressions of joy from people who hadn't seen each other since they walked away from the barbed wire, the dust and the heat to start their new lives.

"You just want to see what people are like," Tak Ogino, 75, a former internee who lives in Temple City, said as he recounted his favorite moments at the reunion.

"You know they're changed, but we still have something in common," he added. "We shared the feeling of not knowing if we were ever going to go back, if things were ever going to be the way they were."

Turn to MEMORIES / D3



**HONORING THE DEAD . . .** Mary Furukawa, right, whose brother, Pvt. Tatsumi Furukawa, died while serving in one of the most decorated U.S. Army battalions in World War II, gets a hug from Jane Eckenstein Hartsook, who was a physical education teacher at the Gila River Relocation Camp. Furukawa participated in an emotion-filled rededication ceremony honoring the 23 men from the camp killed in action.



**CLICKING AWAY . . .** Cameras weren't something the internees could take to camp with them 50 years ago. But on Saturday, cameras were a familiar sight as the former internees and their families and friends jostled through the crowds to get shots of the plaques that were placed at the Gila River camp sites.



**MOVING CEREMONY . . .** Jane Kuroawa Shoji, who was a youngster when she lived in Block 28 at the Butte camp, wipes tears from her eyes during a dedication ceremony at the Gila River 50-year reunion.

Staff photos by Nancy Newman-Bauer

Story by staff writer Susan Gill



WEDNESDAY



March 22, 1995

SAN  
GABRIEL  
VALLEY

# TRIBUNE

## *Confronting the ghosts*



Staff photo by NANCY NEWMAN-BAUER

Admiring the Gila River Honor Roll Monument, Akiko Sayama, at far left, and others returned last weekend to Butte Camp in Arizona, where they were interned during World War II. The 50-year reunion allowed many to

come to terms with the pain they suffered during the years of forced isolation. Reporter Susan Gill and photographer Nancy Newman-Bauer recorded the reunion. See their story in Voices, D1.



# Ventura

Los Angeles Times  
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1995  
VC WEST/CC† SECTION B

## COUNTY



Photos by SPENCER WEINER / Los Angeles Times

Mary Kojima, left, and Ida Yokagawa embrace after meeting for first time since graduating from high school in Gila River camp.

## Japanese Americans Recall Life as Internees

**■ World War II:**  
Nearly 1,200 trek  
to Arizona desert  
to mark 50th  
anniversary of  
camp's closure.

By FRED ALVAREZ  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**G**ILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, Ariz.—About 50 years ago, despite the searing heat and the blinding dust storms, Nao Takasugi played baseball on this desert floor.

Takasugi, now a state assemblyman, also taught Spanish and bookkeeping at a makeshift high school here. And, like other wartime prisoners, he waited to be set free.

His crime: being born to parents of Japanese ancestry in a country at war with Japan.



State Assemblyman Nao Takasugi addresses former war camp internees.

The Oxnard Republican was among thousands of Japanese Americans interned at the Gila River Relocation Center, each uprooted and deposited on this desert scrubland better suited to scorpions and Gila monsters.

On Saturday, for the first time since the internment camp closed its doors half a

century ago, Takasugi returned to the site of his incarceration. He bumped along a rutted dirt road, trying to pick out landmarks to help him piece together a mental image of the place.

The desert has changed since he had last been here. And all that is left of the camp are concrete blocks that poke out of the sand here and there, the skeletal remains of a Japanese community tacked together in a hurry at the start of the second world war.

"I was just a 19-year-old kid, full of idealism and hope," said Takasugi, the former mayor of Oxnard and currently the only Asian American serving in the state Legislature.

"And overnight, to be brought to some place like this in the middle of the desert, was just crushing," he continued. "To have

Please see **CAMP, B9**



# CAMP: Former Internees Return to Desert Site

Continued from B1

your civil liberties taken away, your civil rights stripped away, for no good reason. Well, that's still hard to take."

Here in this Arizona dust bowl, nearly 1,200 people gathered Saturday to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Gila River war camp.

More than 13,000 people of Japanese descent—many of them from the Los Angeles area—were herded to this desolate stretch of desert during World War II, held behind barbed wire by presidential decree and by armed soldiers under orders to gun down anyone who tried to escape.

Included in that number were about 600 Ventura County residents, most of them U.S. citizens.

"We didn't do anything wrong," said 71-year-old Masako Moriwaki, who in the spring of 1942 was shipped from Oxnard to a collection of white-washed barracks set deep in the sun-bleached sands near the Gila River, about an hour outside Phoenix.

"But it was hysteria is what it was," she said. "We were Americans, but all they saw were our Japanese faces."

Authorities, questioning the loyalty of Japanese Americans, forced more than 120,000 people off the West Coast and into 10 war relocation centers scattered across seven states. They were told the internment was for their own good, and they should consider it their contribution to the war effort.

For more than three years—in places with names such as Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Topaz in Utah and Manzanar in California—these prisoners of war did their part.

They lived and they died behind barbed wire. They held sock hops and Christmas socials and high school graduations. They married and made babies.

They mourned their dead, including those who died in camp and Japanese American soldiers who died defending their country.

To this day, half a century after the camps shut their doors, many of the former internees remain so deeply wounded by the episode that they are still reluctant to talk about it.

But some do anyway, driven by a sense that time is running out for telling about the internment experience.

Already, more than half of those interned have died, and each year fewer remain who can pass down firsthand accounts of the mass incarceration.

At the same time, camp survivors fear the public is losing interest in the episode as it fades further into memory.

With that, the 50th anniversary commemorations at Gila River and other internment camps take on special meaning. They represent one of the last opportunities to draw together camp survivors, to have them share their stories and drive home the message that the war-time imprisonment of U.S. citizens was a shameful episode that should never be forgotten.

"We're all kind of running out of steam," said Sue Embrey, who for 25 years has orchestrated a spring-time pilgrimage to Manzanar, the smaller of the two California internment camps.

"It's been in front of the community for so long, people kind of take it for granted," she said. "I have people telling me they've never made one of our reunions, but maybe they'll go next year. I keep telling them, there may not be a next year."

For Tsujio Kato, there isn't a



Eiki and Winnie Kato of Oxnard at gathering. He was 8 when his family was sent to the camp.

next year. Kato, also a former Oxnard mayor, was set to come to the 50th anniversary commemoration, but he died of a heart attack last month.

"He had a lot of fond memories of this place," said his son, Tsujio. "Although it was rough on a lot of the older people, he had a lot of good childhood memories."

Kato's wife, Sumiko, and his son attended Saturday's event. So did his oldest brother, Eiki, who was 8 years old when the family was rounded up and shipped to this place.

"They never notified us by phone or by letter," Eiki Kato said Saturday. "They just hung the announcement on a post and gave us two weeks to get rid of most of our belongings."

Tsujio was 4 years old at the time. Another brother, Victor, was born in camp. Their father won permission to leave camp early to work in the Midwest.

That left Eiki Kato as the head of the house. Fifty years later, the experience still stings.

"They took my youth, because I had to grow up so fast," Kato said. "There's nothing anyone can ever do to make up for that."

The former internees remember the Gila River war camp being a work in progress when they arrived. The barracks were unfinished, and there were open trenches everywhere.

But eventually, it developed into a model facility, so much so that it was selected to be visited by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

The camp had two newspapers, the Gila News-Courier and the Gila Bulletin. A camouflage net factory operated from the fall of 1942 to May, 1943, and a model warship factory produced 800 replicas for the Navy.

Gila had the most extensive agricultural operation of all the camps, at its peak farming 7,000 acres, while maintaining 2,000 head of cattle, 25,000 chickens and 110 dairy cows.

The camp also had a number of schools, including the high school from which 68-year-old Moorpark

resident Bob Yoshimoto received his diploma in 1944.

While striding up a steep hill Saturday to a monument honoring the war dead, Yoshimoto pointed to an outdoor amphitheater where movies were shown. He said he didn't think life was too bad at Gila River, especially for a teen-ager.

"I don't really feel bitter or anything like that," he said. "I guess I try to take things in stride."

That's not to say that life wasn't hard. Families split up, as some members went east to look for work. And the barracks were so close together that there was very little privacy.

Summer temperatures soared as high as 125 degrees. And dust storms swept through the camp, shooting sand and wind through cracks in barrack floors and walls.

Against a blazing sun Saturday, Thousand Oaks resident George Higa spent a good part of the afternoon scouring the desert floor in search of his old barracks.

He found a fish pond his father had built, and a cellar he and his brother had dug out together.

"It brought back a lot of memories," he said. "I don't find it depressing or anything. We shared a lot of good times in that camp when I was a kid."

But he's quick to point out that there was a larger reason for returning to Gila River, one that goes well beyond the search for his childhood. It is the same message that former internees repeated over and over again as they sifted through desert sand Saturday.

"Being put in camp was a rude awakening," Higa said. "We thought we were Americans, but pretty soon you're taken to camp and you find out that you're something different. I guess it's a matter of showing other people this did happen and it should never happen again."

The forced evacuation ripped through the fabric of Ventura County's small but vibrant Japanese American community.

In early 1942—when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, setting the stage for the mass incarceration—672 people of Japanese ancestry lived in Ventura County. By 1950, the population was barely a little more than half that size.

Most lived in Oxnard at the time, concentrated in an area along Oxnard Boulevard near the downtown district.

The evacuation buried that community forever.

"The Japanese community was very strong in Oxnard before the war," said Tim Schiffer, curator of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art, which later this week will feature an exhibit on the history of the Japanese in the

county.

"In many ways, they had assimilated to a significant degree in the society," he said. "But because of their race, they were immediately suspect."

Immediately after the evacuation order, a curfew was imposed prohibiting Japanese Americans from being on the street after 8 p.m.

They were told they could only take to camp what they could carry, prompting many to sell their most valuable possessions, including cars and businesses.

Many of the Japanese farmers got together and auctioned off tractors and heavy equipment at bargain-basement prices. Some internees stored what they could not bear to part with at the local Buddhist Church, or gave their valuables to friends for safekeeping.

Masako Moriwaki remembers her family selling off most of what they owned. They even sold the family car, and had to be driven to meet the train that took them on the first leg of their journey toward internment.

Like most other Japanese Americans of that era, she said she never suspected that one day she would become a prisoner of war. She was born and raised in Oxnard, a product of the local schools.

Even after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a few months after she graduated from Oxnard High School in 1941, she didn't think much of it.

After all, what did it have to do with her. She knew little about Japan, and even less about war.

"I was angry at the world," she said. "But it got to the point where you just had to live with it. What choice did we have?"

In a torn and tattered scrapbook, mixed with all the birthday cards and Christmas greetings, Moriwaki keeps her memories of Gila River.

A poem written by a girlfriend about the barbed wire fence that encircled the camp. A pale green coupon book good for the purchase of \$2.50 in items at the camp canteen. A commencement program from one of the high school graduations at Gila River.

These things will have to keep her memory strong for now. She was unable to attend the 50th anniversary commemoration, unable to see for herself what had become of the place she once called home.

"It's just now that many people are starting to talk about it, to talk about what happened to us," she said. "And it's important that people know, that way it never happens again."



# Arizona

Valley and State News

## Remembering a place of fear



MELANIE ROOK D'ANNA/Tribune

San Jose, Calif., residents Sumi Taniguchi Tanabe, left, and Chizu Matsuura Kubo meditate during a service Saturday to recognize the 50th anniversary of the closing

of a Japanese-American internment camp near Sacaton, south of Chandler. The women joined about 1,000 others for the hour-long ceremony.

## Survivors recall internment camp

By Howard Stansfield  
Tribune correspondent

CASA BLANCA — The empty concrete shells of fish ponds and the foundations for wooden barracks are all that remain of what was once Arizona's third-largest city.

During World War II, this barren patch of desert south of Chandler in the Gila River Indian Community was home to 13,000 Japanese Americans. They were swept to the Gila River Relocation Camp by the wave of hysteria that followed the Pearl Harbor bombing.

On Saturday, some 1,100 survivors gathered at the former camp to exchange memories and retrace old steps on the 50th anniversary of its closure.

Tets Furukawa was 15 when he learned he and his family would be shipped to Arizona from their small

California farm.

"I was scared," he remembered. "We didn't know what they were going to do to us. A lot of us thought they were going to bring us out here and drop bombs on us."

Furukawa said he also wondered what sort of climate awaited him and his family.

"It sounded like a hellhole," he said. "All I could think of were the rattlesnakes."

Once there, though, his family and others managed to adapt to their new surroundings quickly, he said.

Not everyone, though, remained in the camp throughout the war. Shortly after the internment began, Army recruiters began making their rounds in the camps in hopes of finding volunteers.

Masaji Inoshita was 22 and one of the first of about 500 young men from

the Gila camp to enlist.

Inoshita, of Glendale, eventually served in the Pacific, where he guarded Japanese prisoners.

Inoshita said so many Japanese-American men served because they wanted to prove their loyalty.

Twenty-eight men from the camp died fighting for the United States. To commemorate their dead, their families in 1944 built a simple white monument atop one of the buttes overlooking the camp.

In the 50 years since the war, the monument fell prey to vandals and drinkers, who covered it with an ugly scrawl of graffiti and broken glass.

But Saturday, it gleamed under a fresh coat of white paint and the grounds around it had been meticulously cleaned as a gesture of respect from the people of the Gila community.



## Ceremony at Gila River Relocation Camp



**MASUMI HAYASHI**, above, a Cleveland State University instructor who was born at Butte Camp of the Japanese-American Gila River Relocation Center, looks at a photograph of the monument before it was painted this week. The monument is being restored by Wayne, right in photo at right, and Susan, left, Lewis for the 50th anniversary of the camp's closing set for Saturday.



Staff Photos by Oscar Perez



## Emotional Return to Gila River



**SUE KOYAMA** wiped away tears after the dedication at Canal Camp. "I used to run up and down that butte," she said Saturday during the 50th anniversary of the closing of the two Japanese American internment camps at Gila River. Now when I get halfway up I want to call 911." Koyama, now a resident of Montebello, Calif., was 16 when she arrived at Butte Camp. She graduated with its first high school class.

Staff Photos by Susan Edmond

### Internees, Relatives At Site of Camps

By HOWARD STANSFIELD  
Staff Writer

**SACATON** — Hideo Seji traced his fingers along the Japanese characters his father inscribed in the wet cement of his family's fish pond 53 years ago.

"He would go to the canals and catch crayfish to put in it," the 65-year-old remembered with a smile. "They weren't goldfish, but it was still nice to look in there and see them swimming around."

Aside from the crumbling remains of the ponds and foundations of barracks, not much remains of what once was Arizona's third-largest city.

For three years during the Second World War, the Gila River Relocation Camp north of Casa Grande on the Gila River Indian Community was home to more than 13,000 Japanese Americans who had been swept there by the wave of hysteria following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Saturday, some 1,100 people, former residents and relatives, arrived in a caravan of buses that stretched for miles to ex-

**MORE THAN 1,100 people, including those who lived in the Gila River Relocation Camp for Japanese Americans and their descendants, came to Canal and Butte camps Saturday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their closing. At the site of a memorial to the young men who volunteered from the camps to serve and later died defending the United States, family members and friends laid wreaths. Gila River Gov. Mary Thomas welcomed the returnees.**



— Emotional, page 3



# Emotional Return to Gila River

Continued from page 1  
change memories and retrace old steps on the 50th anniversary of the camp's closure. For most, it was their first time back since the government handed them \$25 near the end of the war and told them to get on with their lives.

"Getting out was worse than going in," remembered Haruko Yamamoto, who was 19 when her family was shipped to the camp from their small farm near Fresno, Calif. "Most of us had nothing to go back to."

In early 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order directing 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants to leave the West Coast and go to camps throughout the country. Most of those sent to Arizona came from central California.

"I was scared," remembered Tets Furukawa, who was 15 when he learned his family would have to leave their 20-acre farm. "We didn't know what they were going to do to us. A lot of us thought they were going to bring us out here and drop bombs on us."

Furukawa said he also wondered what sort of climate awaited him and his family.

"It sounded like a hellhole," he said. "All I could think of were the rattlesnakes."

Once there, though, his family

and others managed to adapt to their new surroundings quickly, he said.

"Most of the Japanese were farmers, so we knew how to plant, how to make things grow, even here," he said, gesturing to the surrounding desert. "I think everyone was surprised by what we accomplished."

Not everyone, though, remained in the camp throughout the war. Shortly after the internment began, Army recruiters began making their rounds in hopes of finding volunteers.

Masaji Inoshita was 22 and one of the first of about 500 young men from the camp to sign up.

"I had been waiting around to work in a camouflage factory," he recalled. "Then these recruiters came and said they were looking for men who could read, write and speak Japanese."

Inoshita, who now lives in Glendale, eventually served in the Pacific, where he guarded Japanese prisoners of war. During the war, the Army recruited about 18,000 men from within the camps.

So many Japanese Americans served even as their families were imprisoned, Inoshita said, because they wanted to prove their loyalty to other Americans.

"We were classed as undesirables until we signed up," he says. "Back then, almost every head-

line in every paper said 'beat the Japs,' 'beat the Japs.'"

He said Japanese Americans were frequent targets of derision during the war because they stood out.

"People didn't notice German Americans or Italian Americans," he said. "But when they saw someone like me walking down the street, they'd think, 'he's a spy,' or 'he's a saboteur.'"

Twenty-eight men from the camp lost their lives fighting for the country that had imprisoned their loved ones. To commemorate their dead, their families in 1944 built a simple white monument atop one of the buttes overlooking the camp.

In the 50 years since the war, the monument fell prey to vandals and drinkers, who covered it with an ugly scrawl of graffiti and broken glass.

But Saturday, it gleamed in the sunshine under a fresh coat of white paint, and the grounds around it had been meticulously cleaned as a gesture of respect from the people of the Gila River Community.

"We are now part of the same past," said community leader Urban Giff. "Let us understand it so that our children and our children's children never repeat it."



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## Return to the Gila Reservation

By Joe Allman

On March 17, 1995, the Japanese American former internees, families and friends rolled in on busses, cars, and airplanes to begin the 50th anniversary reunion of the 1945 closing of Gila River Relocation Center, Canal Camp #1 and Butte Camp #2.

To kick-off the anniversary celebration, Attorney General Grant Woods presented the planning committee with an award of congratulations and a warm welcome. He commended the committee for their hard work during the two years that it took to bring this project together. The committee was able to meet privately with Mr. Woods before returning to the hotel.

Back at the hotel, the hospitality room went into action and soon there were cries for more iced tea, coffee and mizu (water). It sounded as though there were many bumble bees in the rooms and halls with all the buzzing of conversation while renewing old friendships among the 1150 people who came to the reunion. This was the first time for many to return to Arizona since leaving in 1945. The festivities began with a trip to the Rocking "R" Ranch in Mesa, Arizona, by 712 members of the reunion group for a barbecue western style dinner and cowboy shoot-out. There were lots of smiling faces in the photographs which were taken at the location.

Saturday morning early, March 18, 1995, began with the loading of 26 busses, 10 vans and several cars from the hotel. First stop was the Ira Hayes Memorial in Sacaton, Arizona, where Helen Y. Mishima and Sei Dyo placed a wreath honoring World War II veterans. The busses were reloaded to continue onto Canal Camp #1 for the dedication of a monument with a plaque noting the opening site in July 1942 and closing in October 1945, a diagram of the Canal site and information of the internment. Guest speakers included the Honorable Nao Takiguchi, former Butte Camp #2 resident and current California assemblyman and Mr. Urban Giff, community manager of the Gila River Indian Community. Some time was spent by the group viewing blocks where they had resided and the various artifacts such as the cement slabs of the Canal administration, mess halls, laundry rooms, barracks pillars and a number of fishponds.

The 26 busses and other vehicles were reloaded and proceeded to Butte Camp #2 site. Bento lunches were served and much water was consumed as it was a warm day. The Butte Camp #2 monument, containing a plaque noting the opening of the camp in July 1942 and closing in November 1945, a diagram of the Butte Camp site and information of the internment was dedicated. A monument with the names of the Japanese American servicemen who died during World War II was dedicated and relatives of three of these honored fallen heroes read the names of those listed on the plaque.

Speakers included the Honorable Mary V. Thomas, governor of the Gila River Indian Community and Mr. Masaji Inoshita, former Butte Camp #2 resident and military intelligence service (MIS) veteran. Time was spent viewing the fishponds, cement remainders of buildings and the dog grave.



Attorney General Grant Woods presents award to Gila Reunion Committee.

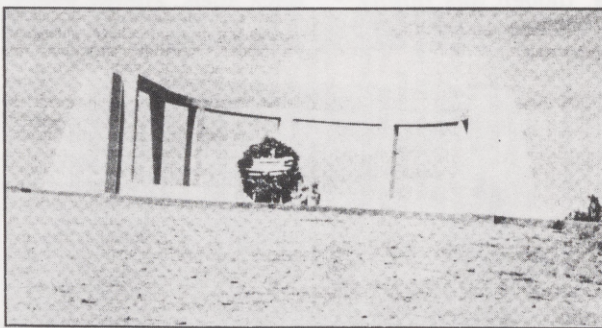
The Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84 of Sacaton, Arizona, posted the colors at all three sites; the bugler sounded taps at the Ira Hayes Memorial and the Butte Camp dedication. Rebecca Nelson, post adjutant, sang the Stars Spangled Banner at the Canal Camp #1 site and the post honor detail conducted the traditional rifle salute at the Butte Camp #2 site.

Ms. Sandra Inoshita led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Butte site. Governor Mary Thomas gave a very moving speech and concluded with "welcome home." The Kyorei Taiko Kai performed at each location to assemble the group and signal that the ceremonies were to begin. The group reloaded the busses and proceeded to the Gila River Arts and Crafts Center to view the Japanese American Gila River Relocation Center Exhibit in the

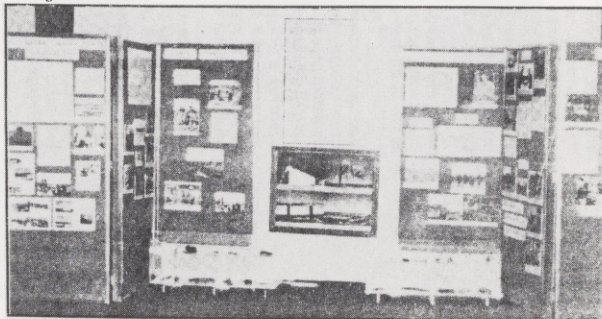
museum and the Gila River Relocation Center Memorial Board in the Heritage Park adjacent to the Arts and Crafts Center.

The group reloaded the busses and returned to Phoenix for the Saturday evening banquet. The group was so large that two ballrooms were filled to capacity and required the use of closed circuit television cameras. Guest speakers included Mr. George Takei, actor and author, and Ms. Irene Hirano, President of the Japanese American National Museum. Guests included Mr. & Mrs. Urban L. Giff of the Gila River Indian Community.

On Sunday, March 19, 1995, the reunion ended with a brunch and guests included Mr. and Mrs. Irving L. Jones, District 5 of the Gila River Indian Community.



Butte Camp #2 monument built during World War II to honor Japanese Americans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Gila River Arts and Crafts Center Museum. Japanese American Gila River Relocation Center exhibit.



## WHO'S WHO

In the half-century since Gila River relocation center closed its gates on a unique, undeniably depressing, and challenging experience, a number of internees went on to live undaunted by their incarceration, and achieved success and distinctions in their chosen fields. Here, in this section of this Gila Reunion booklet, an attempt is made to recognize these people for their achievements.

In the attempt, however, reunion committee workers had to acknowledge some factors beyond our control. One, there was no way to include everyone who may deserve to be included. Many have already passed on and we had too little time for research into their lives.

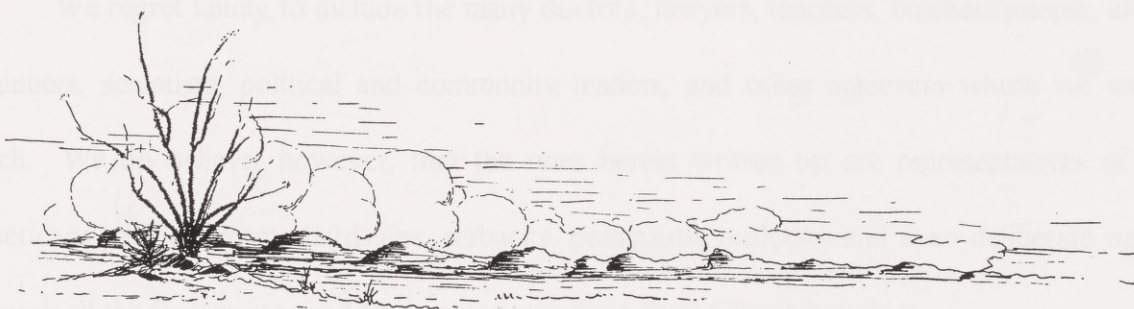
Further, we had no criteria for whom to include, and why. Committee people and friends offered their suggestions and we proceeded on these suggestions.

Then there were two major obstacles. Some of the persons could not be reached for various reasons - no addresses, lack of manpower to make contacts and run down information, and too little time.

All work on the book was done by volunteers. Then, there were some who wished not to be included.

We regret failing to include the many doctors, lawyers, teachers, business people, athletes, artists, engineers, scientists, and community leaders, and other achievers whom we were unable to reach.

As a result, we have put up our representations of the Japanese American experience and the Gila River relocation center as a symbol of the struggle and triumph of the Japanese American people.



# Who's Who



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## Return to the Gila Reservation



People gathered for the 50th anniversary of the Gila River Reservation.

The Gila River Indian Community, which was founded in 1926, celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 15, 1976. The community is located in the Gila River Valley, near Phoenix, Arizona. The community has a rich history and a strong sense of identity. The 50th anniversary was celebrated with a series of events, including a reunion of the community's founding members. The community is proud of its heritage and its contributions to the region. The 50th anniversary is a significant milestone for the community, and it is a testament to the resilience and strength of the Gila River Indian Community.



The Gila River Valley, near Phoenix, Arizona.



People gathered for the 50th anniversary of the Gila River Reservation.



## WHO'S WHO

In the half-century since Gila River relocation center closed its gates on a unique, undeniably depressing, and challenging experience, a number of internees went out in life, undaunted by their incarceration, and achieved success and distinctions in their chosen fields. Here, in this section of this Gila Reunion booklet, an attempt is made to recognize these people for their achievements.

In the attempt, however, reunion committee workers and editors acknowledge some factors beyond our control. One, there was no way to include everyone who may deserve to be included. Many have already passed on and we had too little time for research into their lives.

Further, we had no criteria for whom to include and why. Committee people and friends offered their suggestions and we proceeded on these suggestions.

Then there were two major obstacles. Some of the nominees could not be reached for various reasons - no addresses, lack of manpower to make contacts and run down information, and too little time. All work on the book was done by volunteers. Then, there were some who wished not to be included.

We regret failing to include the many doctors, lawyers, teachers, business people, athletes, artists, engineers, scientists, political and community leaders, and other achievers whom we were unable to reach. We do believe, however, that the ones herein written up are representatives of the Japanese Americans who overcame hardships, setbacks, pessimistic outlooks and even deliberate opposition and, through all the factors required for success, went out from Gila and made it.



### JAMES ARAKI

A jazz musician who became a professor of Japanese literature is the remarkable story of James T. Araki. In addition, he also served in the U.S. Army in two wars -World War II and Korea- and received a number of honors, the most impressive of which is the Order of the Rising Sun, 4th Class, for his contributions as an author and translator of Japanese literature and for his music.

Born in Salt Lake City, he was a teenager in Gila Relocation Center, where he acquired a clarinet and began playing jazz in 1943. He picked up the sax later and several other instruments after he joined the Army at age 18. He was a lieutenant when he left the Army in 1948. While serving with the GHQ Allied Translator and Interpreter Section in Tokyo, he became a sensation of the Japanese jazz community, known for his improvising and keen sense of swing. He played alto and tenor sax as well as clarinet, trumpet and the piano. He was known for playing hot guitar in Sgt. Johnny Baker's jive combo, on armed Forces Radio, and cutting records with Japanese bands.



Returning to civilian life, he earned his bachelor's degree at UCLA and his master's and doctor's degrees at UC Berkeley. He taught at UCLA before moving to the University of Hawaii and became a professor of Japanese literature. He was credited with introducing modern Japanese literature as the UH's first chairman of the department of Eastern Asian literature. Dr. Araki retired in 1988 and returned to the mainland, where he passed away on Dec. 22, 1992. He was survived by two sons, two daughters, one grandchild, and a brother, David, and sisters Emily Ono and Kiyoko Arao. He was 66.



### SUZIE (TAMURA) OCHI

The reunion banquet guests were highly entertained by the piano artistry of Suzie (Tamura) Ochi.

Suzie's credentials include BA, MM, DMA degrees in music as well as several teaching credentials in elementary, secondary, and administrative/supervisory credentials.

Her teaching experience includes elementary schools (as music specialist and music consultant), secondary schools (music), and Westmont College (music), as well as teaching piano privately. For several years, she was Associate Conductor with the West Coast Symphony Orchestra.

Among some of her piano teachers were Coulima Stravinsky, Gyorgy Sandor, Lillian Steuber, and Reginald Stewart (all concert pianists). Also, she studied vocal accompaniment with Gwendolyn Kodowsky (Lotte Lehmann's personal accompanist, and chamber music with Emmanuel Bay (Jascha Heifetz's personal accompanist).

She is married to Jack Ochi, happily retired in Santa Barbara, and still intermittently performing in public on the piano.



### TSUTOMU AND MASAYO DYÓ

From recently discovered secret documents acquired from the archives of US Army intelligence personnel by authors of a book, "Border Revolution", by Charles H. Harris and Louis Sadler, March 27, 1988. It was found that several Japanese men served in the US Army under general John J. Pershing in the punitive expedition into Mexico during the Revolution in pursuit of Pancho Villa.

Among these individuals were Tsutomu Dyo from San Geronimo, K. Fujita from Madera, A. Sato from Madera and T. Suzuki from Perdarnales, in the state of Chihuahua. These men served in G-2 (Intelligence) with Lt. George Patton (later General Patton of WWII).



**Tsutomu And Masayo In 1920**

Dyo was involved in ranching, farming, and gold and silver mining in Mexico during the Mexican revolution at which time Villa's army had encamped on one of his ranches in Chihuahua. To punish the US Government for selling arms to the Federales, Pancho Villa was scheduled to attack El Paso but later changed his mind and decided to hit Columbus, New Mexico. Dyo had sneaked away to alert the immigration authorities in El Paso, but was completely ignored.

On March 9, 1916, the famed Mexican revolutionary leader General Pancho Villa and his troops attacked the tiny New Mexico border village of Columbus, killing some 17 American soldiers and civilians before retreating southward to the mountains of Chihuahua. As a result of the raid, President Woodrow Wilson ordered American troops under the command of Brigadier General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to pursue Villa. During the next thirty days, 10,500 American troops advanced more than 400 miles into the western portion of the state of Chihuahua.

Intelligence documents reveal that because of the close relation of Dyo with Pancho Villa, agents Dyo and Sato were picked for a secret mission to assassinate Villa. Poison tablets specially prepared by army surgeons were put into Villa's coffee, however, Villa drank only a small portion of the coffee and handed the rest to one of his soldiers to drink.

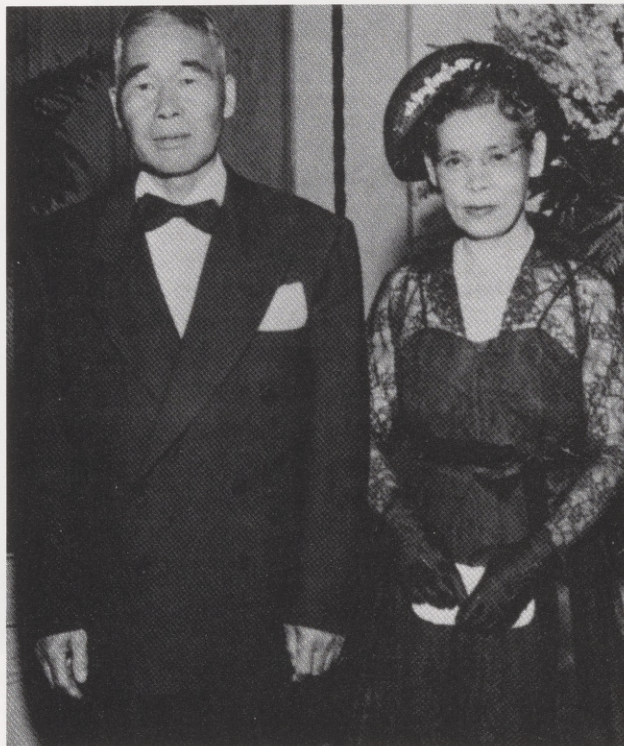
The plot did not succeed and Villa indeed lived until he later was assassinated in 1923.



Dyo had success as the owner of King Mining Company and became one of the early millionaires among Japanese in America, but when all alien properties were confiscated by the Mexican government, he lost everything and went into farming in the Santa Barbara area.

Tsutomu Dyo's service in the US Army with the daring mission was so secret that this story was not revealed until early March of 1988 by authors Harris and Sadler, professors of History at New Mexico State University.

Tragically during World War II, the Dyo family again lost all their holdings in the evacuation of the Japanese concentration camps. Members of the family included Tsutomu and Masayo, (sons) Ken and Sei and Mitsuko and Kow (daughters).



Taken In 1962

When the US government enacted the draft of all eligible young men for the US Army, Dyo then the interpreter between Spain (a neutral country) and Japan, protested to the Spanish consul the drafting of Japanese Americans into the army while they were incarcerated in concentration camps, but did not object to the draft if the young men were released to be free as an American citizen.

Because of the fear of a possible riot, Dyo was transferred to an Enemy Alien prison camp at Santa Fe, New Mexico. His later move to the internment camp in Crystal City enabled the family, then in Gila, to be reunited.

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Dyo and his wife were allowed to return to Santa Barbara, California. He was one of the early Isseis to become an American citizen but like most Isseis he died without knowing that the United States government, which he honorably served in the army, failed to grant him a formal apology for the wrong doing to him and his family during World War II.







### MASANI "Mas" FUKAI

The third time's a charm - and this old saying is true of Butte High School graduate Masani "Mas" Fukai. After leaving Gila and serving in the US Army from 1945 to 1947, he attended Los Angeles Trade-Tech College and opened his own successful automotive repair business, which he ran for 13 years.

His second career choice came in 1963 when he was eager to try something new, enrolled at the California School of Insurance, and succeeded in his second business venture. He joined the Wada, Asato Insurance Agency and qualified for the Franklin Million Dollar Conference. Two years later, in 1965, he was named Franklin Life's leading Nisei agent and a Life Member at the Million Dollar Conference. He maintained this standing every year through 1973, demonstrating the commitment and strength that make him a leader.

Then came his third - and most successful - career endeavor. On March 5, 1974, he was elected to the Gardena City Council, the top vote-getter among 11 candidates. Since his entry into the political arena, his career has been top-notch. Winning reelection five times in a row, he has served the City Council for 21 unbroken years.

Before he entered politics, Mas, interested in youth, founded the Gardena Friends of Richard (FOR) Junior Sports Association, which aimed at "turning drug addicts into sports addicts." His tireless efforts in behalf of youth caught the attention of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who appointed Mas to the County's Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission.

Supervisor Hahn named Mas a deputy on his staff in 1975, then promoted Mas to Chief Deputy in 1987, the highest ranking Asian American in LA County government. He also served as Hahn's appointee to the Southern California Rapid Transit District and Hahn's alternate on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission. When Hahn decided not to seek reelection, Mas retired from county service in 1992. He did, however, continue to serve as a member of the Metropolitan Transit Authority as an appointee of Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Hahn's successor as county supervisor.

His commitment to municipal and county government service has brought him recognition from several organizations, Kiwanis, YMCA, VFW and JACL, to name a few. He received the Special Recognition Award from the Black Business Association, Man of the Year Award from the Boy Scouts of America, Man of the Year Award from the Japanese Cultural Institute, and resolutions of commendation from the US Congress and the California State Legislature.

At home Mas and his wife, Lillie, have two children and three grandchildren, all living in Gardena.



## **HARRY K. FUKUHARA**

If Hollywood wants a terrific idea for a movie script, there is a dramatic one, with complexities, in the wartime experiences of Harry K. Fukuhara, who gave a total 48 years of service with the US Army, both as an officer and as a Department of Army civilian. In his career he had the anxious experience of learning of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, where his mother and brother were living. He also had the rare experience of interrogating a friend he knew in high school in Japan, then a Japanese POW.

Fukuhara was born in Seattle in 1920 but went with his mother and brothers to Hiroshima in 1933, after the death of his father. The Nisei graduated from Sanyo Commercial High School in Japan in 1938, then returned to the US for college. In 1942 he was evacuated to the Tulare Assembly Center, then was sent to Gila. In November of that year, he volunteered for military service from Gila and was assigned to the MIS Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota, and joined the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section in Australia in May 1943. In the next two years he served in campaigns from the Southwest Pacific to the Philippines, New Britain, Dutch New Guinea, and Luzon. He received a direct field commission as 2nd lieutenant and received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with two Oakleaf Clusters), Combat Infantry Badge, Philippine Liberation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Oakleaf Cluster, and numerous other awards.

His first tour of duty in Occupied Japan ended in 1946, but he served a second tour there 1947 to 1954. He continued to serve in various intelligence assignments and retired in 1971 with the rank of colonel. He then continued to serve another 19 years as a Department of Army civilian before his final retirement in 1990.

In 1988 Col. Fukuhara was inducted into the US Army Intelligence Hall of Fame, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and on July 3, 1993 he was further recognized in a ceremony at the Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Member of the Military Intelligence Corps. The Japanese American Veterans Association honored him with the American Patriot Award at the MIS Capital Reunion on October 23, 1993.

He served as president of the MIS Association, Northern California 1991-1993 and since 1992 served as special advisor to the commanding general US Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Belvoir, VA. He is now retired with his wife Terry in San Jose.

That anxious moment when the atom bomb devastated Hiroshima turned out happily for Fukuhara, when he found that his mother and brothers had survived the blast. One brother, however, died from the after-effects of the bomb. (His three brothers served in the Japanese Army).

That rare experience of interrogating an old high school friend during the war, also, turned out well. He had interrogated a POW, Shigeru Matsuura, in New Guinea in 1944. Matsuura, heavily bearded and looking like a skeleton, recognized Fukuhara, who then had the POW transferred to a safe camp in Australia. Matsuura came to regard Fukuhara as his "savior," as reported in American Patriots, published by the Japanese American Veterans Association. On Dec. 7, 1989, 45 years after Fukuhara interrogated Matsuura in New Guinea, the two were reunited in Hiroshima.

**POST SCRIPT:** Here's a happy development to Harry's story. At the opening of an exhibit this November of the Japanese American National Museum of JA military experiences, Harry and his brothers, who had served in the Japanese Army during the war, were reunited. Pierce, now 73, and Frank, now 71, were in Hiroshima as youngsters and stayed when Harry, the oldest of the three, came back to the US in 1938 after he finished high school. Today Pierce lives in Yokohama and Frank spends his time in Nagoya and Hawaii. Both were successful businessmen in Japan.





### JOHN FUYUUME

A true man for all seasons, John N. Fuyuume is a talented and trained musician, a successful business man, and a skilled community leader. He was graduated from Butte High School in 1943, to become a man of distinction.

His advanced education concentrated on music, and he earned his bachelor's (with distinction) and master's degrees in music literature from the University of Rochester, New York. He then took up studies in industrial engineering at the University of Delaware before studying at IBM schools in Philadelphia and Binghamton for four years, 1954-58.

His first plunge into the working world came at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey, where he was an industrial engineer 1951-54, manager of data processing 1954-59, and manager of manufacturing planning and control 1959-60.

John then spent the years 1960-1979 in a range of positions, from assistant controller to director, executive compensation and services, for IU International Corporation.

In the years 1979-1989 he served as director of St. Vincent boat companies, chairman of the International Division in Bermuda, secretary of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, and vice president and secretary of the Gotaas-Larsen Shipping Corporation in Hamilton, Bermuda. Tourists who took Caribbean cruises might well have sailed on a ship in John's company.

After retirement in 1989, John returned to Seabrook, NJ, and was asked to take on the job of project director for the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, Inc. In the years 1990-1995 he took on other responsibilities - past president and treasurer, Seabrook JACL; member, Upper Deerfield Township Historic Commission, and Trustee, Bridgeton Symphony.

On October 8-9, 1994, Seabrook celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of more than 2,500 persons from the 10 evacuation camps at Seabrook Farms. On that occasion the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center was opened to the public and commemorated. John served as project director for the SECC, a five-year effort to develop and build a museum and cultural center for the unique community of Seabrook.

John, also, came to the Gila Reunion in March of this year and contributed a classic piano solo for the banquet. Truly a man for all seasons.





### GEORGE HAYAKAWA

Hayakawa Associates is a consulting engineering firm specializing in mechanical and electrical building services, headed by George Hayakawa, who grew up in Pasadena, California, was interned in Gila Relocation Center and served in military intelligence during World War II.

His firm has been responsible for the design of approximately 65.5 million square feet of projects located throughout the United States as well as Europe and Asia. Major projects include the LA County/USC Medical Center Replacement Hospital; National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC; the Anderson Building and Shin 'En Kan Pavilion of the LA County Museum of Art; World Trade Center in Long Beach; UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management; Duke University Medical Center's Duke Hospital North in Durham, NC; and George Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco. The firm is now working on the addition to the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.

George earned his degree in mechanical engineering from USC and recently established a scholarship to remember the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The award is part of the Asian Pacific American Support Group Scholarship Endowment Fund.

He is a registered professional engineer in 22 states and holds a certificate from the National Council of Engineering Examiners. He is a member of four professional associations and a fellow in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers. He is also a member of the College of Fellows of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering and is listed in Who's Who in Engineering.

George has been invited twice to Japan as consultant and lecturer, served on the Dean's Advisory Council of USC's School of Architecture, is a past president of the USC Architectural Guild, and served two four-year terms as a commissioner on the California Building Standards Commission.



### MASUMI HAYASHI

A keen eye with political sensitivity and terrific photo skills has brought distinction to Masumi Hayashi, who was born in 1945 to Nisei parents in Gila River Relocation Center. A graduate with bachelor's and master's degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, she had lived there and in Los Angeles before joining the Cleveland State University art faculty in 1982.

Activism in her art is evident in a number of photcollage series. In Elyria, Ohio, she began photographing toxic waste sites. In Cincinnati she focused on the Workhouse, a local prison, and started a series on prisons that extended to other areas and included Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

Her keen eye saw a photo subject in the formerly booming but now idle Midwest factory environment and she completed a multiple-image color work on abandoned steel mills in Youngstown and industrial neighborhood in Cleveland.

In 1994 Masumi received the Cleveland Arts Prize in the visual arts, in recognition of her photographs of local spots of architectural and garden beauty as well as industrial sites. She was the first photographer to be so recognized.

Last autumn her collages were part of an exhibition of work by 11 Ohio artists traveling to Japan. To date she has also completed work on four of the 10 internment camps from World War II, beginning with the place of her birth, Gila.

In an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Masumi was quoted on her art: "Most of my work deals with remnants of what is left, almost as archaeological remains. It has to do with looking back at the past. There is a lot of memory and a romantic aspect, along with social content".

### IRVINE YOKOYAMA

Irvine Yokoyama, who returned to Central California from Gila in 1945, has led a full, busy life, teaching school for 28 years and serving in the US Air Force, then the California Air National Guard.

It all began after he returned to Del Rey, graduated class valedictorian from Sanger Union High School, attended Reedley College, and graduated from Fresno State College with a major in chemistry and physics in 1952. That year he received a direct commission in the USAF as a second lieutenant and studied meteorology at UCLA. He served at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino in 1953-4 and Holloman AFB and White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in 1954-56. That year he was discharged from the USAF and assigned to the California Air National Guard.

It was in 1956 that he was hired as a math and science teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, first at Birmingham High, then at Granada Hills High. Additional assignments included varsity golf coach, special programs director, and grade counselor.

During his teaching career he also served his country. In 1961, during the Berlin crisis, Irvine was recalled to active duty in the Air Force and became commander of his unit in 1963. In 1972-78 he was reassigned to headquarters, California Air National Guard, in Sacramento as the chief meteorologist to the commanding general. In 1974 he was promoted to full colonel and in 1978, on his retirement, he was promoted to brigadier general in the Air National Guard.

In 1984, on his retirement from teaching, he and his family settled in Ocean Hills, in North San Diego County, relocated to Honolulu in 1990-95, then returned to Ocean Hills. He is a past president of the local Air Force Association and a member of Lions International. In his favorite game, golf, he holds the record for holes-in-one at Ocean Hills - seven (7)! He and his wife Alice have two sons and six grandchildren.



## **ROBERT S. HORII**

As city engineer of the Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering, Robert Horii has been in the vanguard of developing new city-wide applications for automating and communicating graphics and textual information.

Since 1985 he has been responsible for the design and construction of all public buildings, streets, sewers, wastewater treatment plants, bridges, and other public works projects. Recent projects include the expansion of the Convention Center, the new Central Library, Hyperion Treatment Plan and the seismic retrofit of city-owned buildings and bridges.



Robert is associated with many national, state and local organizations, including American Public Works Association (APWA) American Society of Civil Engineers, Water Environment Federation, California Water Pollution Control Association, City-County Engineers Association, Metropolitan Transportation Engineering, and the Institute for Advancement of Engineering. In 1952 he was president of the Institute for Municipal Engineering (APWA) and the College of Fellows, Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, and was chairman of the APWA Southern California Management Committee (1985). Professional recognition came in the Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award in 1991 from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award in 1989 from the APWA, City Employee of the Year Award in 1991 from the All City Employees Association, the Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Engineering Professional from the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, and CELSOC Engineering Excellence Honor Award.

In his community he is past president of the Gardena Community Cable Usage Corporation, Gardena Evening Optimist Club, and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, and is now president of the Board of Directors of the Cultural Institute's housing project. Past awards include Citizen of the Year from the Lions Club and Optimist of the Year for Zone 3. In 1987 he was Grand Marshal of the Nisei Week Parade as Outstanding Public Employee.

A native of Redondo Beach, Robert earned his Associate of Arts degree in engineering from El Camino College in 1951, and his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from UCLA in 1953, and completed courses in public administration at UCLA and USC. He received an Executive Management Graduate School Certificate from UCLA.

He and his wife Mary have lived in the Gardena area for 40 years. They have two sons, Brian an engineer and Dwayne an attorney.



## MARY HUXLEY

From Mary Huxley's studio in San Mateo, California, have come oil, pastel and watercolor works exhibited throughout the U.S.. She is Atsuko Taniguchi, Butte High School Class of 1947. She began painting at a very young age. She studied with the late Thomas C. Leighton, Daniel E. Greene and at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her paintings reflect a fascination with light and its ever-changing effect. She paints primarily in oil, but she also works in pastel and watercolor. She is most renown for her outstanding still life oils.

She has exhibited in such shows as the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio; the American Artists Professional League, the Salmagundi Club of New York, the Knickerbocker Artists of America, the National Arts Club and the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club all of New York; the Charles and Emma Frye Museum, Seattle; the de Saisset and Rosicrucian Museums, San Jose; and the University Club of San Francisco and the San Francisco Artists' Cooperative, both of which gave her one-artist invitational shows. She has received numerous awards and honors, and her work is represented in private and corporate collections worldwide including commission work for Nordstrom.

She is a Fellow of the American Artists Professional League of New York, a signature member of the Society of Western Artists and Oil Painters of America, and she serves as a Trustee for the Society of Western Artists and as juror for art exhibitions.



"White Mums and Teacup" (24 x 24) Oil



### HELEN S. KAWAGOE

Graduating from Butte High School in 1944 to winning election to the city clerkship of Carson, California, with subsequent travels on business to Europe and Australia, is a giant step for anyone, especially a young Japanese American woman. It was for Helen S. Kawagoe, who has served as Carson city clerk from March 1974 to the present.

As a municipal official she has a variety of duties, including handling all public inquiries, managing records, receiving bids and bonds, publishing and posting public hearing notices, and maintaining the Municipal Code. She also serves as secretary to the Carson Redevelopment Agency and Carson Public Financing Authority, prepares departmental budgets, and prepares necessary documents for public hearings. She is the chief election officer for all municipal elections.



Her work has involved her with local, state, national and international organizations, including the City Clerks Association of California, League of California Cities, National League of Cities, and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. In the latter, the IIMC, she rose through succeeding chairs from fifth vice president to the office of president.

In her role as IIMC president she served as a speaker or a panelist for professional associations of municipal clerks at meetings in Portsmouth, England; Amsterdam and Utrecht, Netherlands; Paris, France; and Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1986, and in New Zealand and Australia in 1987. She was keynote speaker at state and provincial associations throughout the United States and Canada, also in 1986-87.

In her 21 years as city clerk, she has also taken leadership roles in local and area Japanese American and Asian community groups. In 1981 she chaired the South Bay Keiro Development Fund drive that raised \$1.3 million for a long-term care nursing home for Asians.

Other community involvements include LEAP, Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, California State University, Dominguez Hills President's Ambassador Club and Student Union Campaign Committee, and several LA County and Carson city organizations.

Recognition of her leadership brought a number of awards in addition to consideration for state and national appointments. She was entered into the Congressional Record as the first Japanese-American woman to be elected to municipal office on the mainland US in 1974 and as the first minority to be elected President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 1986. In addition to recognitions by local, county, state and national governmental bodies, she was presented the Sacred Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot, on Nov. 22, 1993, by the Emperor of Japan.

Before she entered municipal service, Helen and her husband, Tak, operated a nursery in Torrance. She then served as vice-president, marketing and public relations, for Merit Savings and Loan Association in L.A. Her husband, Tak, passed away in 1992. They had been married 44 years.

In 1977 she was presented the Honorary Doctor of Laws by South Bay University College of Laws.



### GEORGE E. KAWAMOTO

Leaving Gila for Cleveland in 1943, George E. Kawamoto began a career in portrait and commercial photography that led him to some of the most prestigious corporate board rooms in America and to one of this country's highest civilian awards, the US Freedom Award. He was presented this distinction in 1960 for a series of portraits of industrial leaders and their encouraging messages to the youth of America.

George's story began in Nagasaki, Japan, where he was born in 1918. At age three he was brought to the US and grew up in Los Angeles, where he attended Beverly Hills and Los Angeles High Schools and graduated from USC in 1941, the only Nisei to receive a degree in cinematography. Relocated in Gila, he taught English in the high school, keeping unruly students under control, and married his wife Louise.

Relocating to Cleveland, he plunged into work in photography, then moved to Detroit, where he opened his own studio. Some of his commercial accounts in the auto metropolis included Ford, Chrysler and General Motors, as well as Champion spark plugs, Hudson department stores, K-Mart, J. Walter Thompson Agency and AC Delco. His commercial work took him to many areas of the US and Europe.

He also taught at the Detroit School of Photography, where many of his students learned their art and became successful.

For his skill in portraiture, he was retained to photograph many well known political office holders, diplomats, industrial and corporation leaders. Through his work he became a close personal friend of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford, Jr., and was adopted as honorary grandfather by Mrs. Ford's granddaughter.

In the 1950's George applied for and received his US citizenship after passage of the Walter-McCarran Act.

Outside of his work in photography, George ventured into unique, successful real estate deals, including the Michigan International Speedway for stock and Nascar racers, the Windsor Raceway horse racing track, and mobile home parks.

He had a passion for fishing in streams and lakes of northern Michigan, played a little golf, enjoyed boxing, and was a loyal fan of the Detroit Tigers in baseball and the Lions in football.

Upon retirement he settled in Escondido in 1989 and began putting around his yard, playing golf when his arthritis permitted, fishing and going to the theater, as well as Las Vegas.

In appreciation for his university, USC, he was the first Japanese American to endow two teaching chairs there: in the School of Biological Sciences for the study of joints and rheumatic diseases and in the School of Medicine for the study of the brain.



### JAY KAZUO KOCHI

From junior high student in bleachers at Santa Anita Assembly Center to professor of chemistry at the University of Houston is a tremendous leap in the world of education, but the Jay Kazuo Kochi made it. Along with way he also graduated from Butte High School in 1945.

Ironically his exposure to chemistry at Butte was under the guidance of a Spanish teacher, so Jay had the unique experience of teaching himself from the textbook. Chemistry was love at first sight, and he went to Cornell university as a chemistry major, under the help of the American Friends. When Gila was closed in 1946, he rejoined his family in Los Angeles, graduated from UCLA in 1949, and obtained his pH D degree at Iowa State University in 1952.



His career in chemistry took major steps as he held an instructorship at Harvard and a National Institutes of Health Special Fellowship at Cambridge University, and a position with Shell Development Company. He reentered academic work at Case Institute of Technology (later Case Western Reserve University), moved to Indiana University as Earl Blough Professor of Chemistry in 1969, then assumed his present position as the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of Houston in 1984.

Over the years he has produced over 450 scientific papers, mostly in publications of the American Chemical Society. He has had honors and lectureships from 1981 to 1989 at the US National Academy of Sciences, Columbia University, University of Rochester, University of Wisconsin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the American Chemical Society in this country, as well as the University of Rennes in France, Marburg, Germany, University of British Columbia, and the University of Lund, in Sweden.

Jay has also served on editorial boards of professional journals and has held consultantship with E.I. Du Pont de Nemours (1962-present), Merck, Sharp and Dohme (1981-1993) and Shell Development Company (1986-1992).

He has been cited in "The 300 Most-Cited Authors," 1961-1976, and "The 1000 Most-Cited Contemporary Authors," both times in Current Contents. He has also authored a two-volume monograph and two books.

And this illustrious career began in a Butte high school chemistry class under a Spanish teacher.



**DR. YOSH MARUYAMA**

Regarded by colleagues in medicine as one of the most respected and well-renowned radiation oncologists in the US, Dr. Yosh Maruyama attended middle school in Gila, where he lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Yasaki Maruyama, and his brother George.

Returning to Pasadena, city of his birth, after the war, Yosh graduated from high school and went on to the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his degree in biochemistry and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated in medicine from the University of California, San Francisco; completed his residency in radiation oncology at Harvard, and completed fellowships at Oakridge Institute for Nuclear Sciences, Stanford University, the Karolinska Institute, and Hammersmith Hospital.

At the University of Minnesota he joined the faculty in 1964 as assistant professor and directed the Division of Radiotherapy from 1968 to 1970. In 1970 he was appointed professor and chairman of radiation medicine and director of the Radiation Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky. During his tenure there, he built the center into one of the premiere radiation therapy centers in the southern US, developed new techniques involving the treatment of malignant tumors, especially gynecological tumors, and developed the use of new radiation isotopes for cancer treatment.

In 1993 Dr. Maruyama was appointed directed of Clinical Neutron Therapy of the Gershenson Oncology Center at Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center.

He authored numerous books, contributed over 400 publications to the field of radiation oncology, and lectured at universities and professional meeting throughout the world.

He was a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and the Royal Society of Medicine, served as president of the Kentucky Division of the American Cancer Society and received its National Award in 1988, and was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Radium Society, American Association of Cancer Research, Southwestern Oncology Group, New York Academy of Sciences, and many other professional organizations. He served on the board of directors of several cancer centers, as a consultant to the National Cancer Institute, and on the editorial boards of professional journals.

He was married to his wife Fudeko for 40 years, and they had one son, three daughters and two grandchildren. Death came to Dr. Maruyama on Jan. 11, this year, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. He was 64 years old.



### RONALD S. MATSUNAGA



Combining his skill in dentistry and medicine, Dr. Ronald S. Matsunaga became a specialist in head and neck surgery and facial plastic surgery, practicing for 30 years in the Beverly Hills area. The Gila Camp II evacuee served in the US Dental Corps during World War II, then entered the USC Dental School and graduated in 1953.

With his degree in dentistry completed, Ronald went to UCLA Medical School and graduated in 1958. He then completed his residency in head and neck surgery and facial plastic surgery in 1962 and began his private practice.

In the academic world Ronald was appointed clinical professor, Department of Otolaryngology, Division of Facial Plastic and Maxillo-facial Surgery at the USC School of Medicine.

His professional society memberships are the following: fellow of American College of Surgeon, of American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and of American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery; diplomat of American Board of Otolaryngology and American Board of Dentistry; and member of American Academy of Aesthetic and Restorative Surgery, and the following medical associations - Los Angeles County, California, American, and Japanese American.

He has hospital affiliations with Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital, where he was chief, Head and Neck Surgery Department; Midway Hospital, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the USC LA County Medical Center.

He has authored four professional articles and given lectures and made presentations at 32 meetings throughout the US and in Hong Kong, Australia, Tahiti, Indonesia and Japan.

Ronald is married to the former Helen Morita, also a Gila evacuee. In the community he is a member of the Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum.

### BEN INOSHITA

"Get your CPA; will travel" - this might be the motto of Ben Inoshita, whose 35 year career as an accountant took him to New York City and three Central American countries. Ben started as a junior accountant with the international accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche in Phoenix in 1955. He passed his Certified Public Accountant examination in 1957 and served his firm in Santiago, Chile; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Caracas, Venezuela, as well as New York City. In 1990 he retired as partner in the firm.

Ben was born in Santa Maria, relocated with his family in Butte camp, and graduated from Glendale Union High School in Glendale, AZ. He attended Phoenix College and graduated from Lamson Business College.

He is married to Marjorie Greenfield and they have five children and five grandchildren. He and brother Masaji were highly instrumental in working out details with Joe Allman of the Arizona JACL for the 50th Reunion at Gila this spring.



### TORU MIYOSHI

For a Horatio Alger story, Nisei style, listen to the life account of Toru Miyoshi, graduate of Butte High School. He really began his work experience on the lowly entry level, leaving camp and going to Benton Harbor, Michigan, to work as a dish washer. He proved his competence and was promoted to cook's helper in charge of mashed potatoes. Moving to Chicago, he was hired on the inspection crew producing marine tents. Then he returned to Gila to help his partners relocate in Santa Maria, and that's where he moved up in the world to become a city councilman and a county supervisor as well as a successful insurance and real estate agent.

Toru graduated from USC in 1955 and attended graduate school there while working for the Bank of Tokyo in Los Angeles. He returned to Santa Maria in 1957 and opened an insurance and real estate office.

He had earlier served in the US Army, enlisting in 1946 and being recalled to the Korean conflict in 1950.

In Santa Maria he was elected to the City Council from 1978 to 1982, then won election to the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County for two terms, 1982-1990. In 1992 he was again elected to the Santa Maria City Council, his term to end in 1996.

During his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, he served as chairman of the Board and headed the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. He was the Board's representative to the Area Planning Council, Agency on Aging, Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority, and Tri-Counties Oil Committee. In 1978 he also was appointed by the Mayor's Select Committee to the State Regional Coastal Commission.

Toru and his wife Jeanne have two daughters and two grandchildren.



### JUDGE MIKIO UCHIYAMA



The practice of law in both civilian and military life marks the career of Mikio Uchiyama, attorney and now judge. His career began after graduation from Reedley High School, acquisition of an Associate of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1942, and graduation from the University of Texas School of Law with his LLB in 1945.

After post-graduate studies at Harvard Law School in 1946, Uchiyama served in the Counter Intelligence Corps, Far East Command, in Tokyo 1946-1948; as an appeals attorney at the war crimes trial, Headquarters 8th Army, Judge Advocate Section, Yokohama, 1948-49; and in General Headquarters, Supreme Commander of Allied Powers, 1949-1951. He returned to the U.S., attended Stanford University School of Law, and opened his law practice in 1952. He served as city attorney for the City of Fowler 1961-68.

Recognition's include Fowler's Outstanding Citizen in 1980 and the Emperor's 3rd Class Medal in 1992.

Organizations Judge Uchiyama is associated with are the State Bar of California, Bar Association of San Francisco, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and Fresno County Bar Association. Also, Buddhist Churches of America, Fowler Buddhist Church, Central California Judo Black Belt Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Fowler Lions Club, Central California Nikkeijin Kai, and Nisei Farmer League.

He married Toki Henmi in Tokyo in 1948 and they have two sons, both married, and three grandchildren.



### NORIYUKI (PAT) MORITA

There's a star on Hollywood Boulevard with the name of a kid from Gila - Pat Morita, star of feature films and TV series. Born in 1932, he was 11 years old when he first went to Gila River Relocation Center in August 1943.

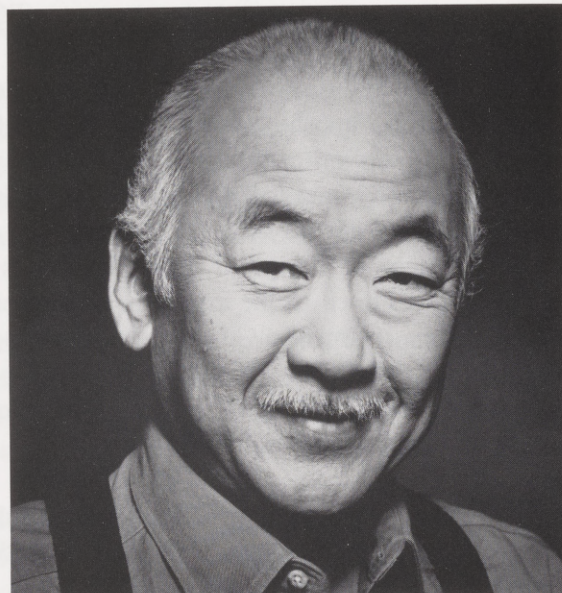
Getting there was eventful, for he had been stricken with spinal tuberculosis at age two and spent nine years in a sanitarium near Sacramento, away from his parents and his cultural heritage. He joined his parents in camp, in Camp 2, Butte.

He remembers attending his first school class and later recalled the irony and poignancy of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance "while noting in his young mind's eye barbed wire and manned guard towers."

After camp, he says, he managed to see his way through high school and two years of junior college. He became a young father and a family man and, at age 30, dared to enter the world of show business, "turning his back," he says, "forever on the safe life he might have had."

In the latter stages of his life and career, he gained the recognition that comes with success. He was the first Asian American Actor to star in a TV series, as "Arnold" of the hit show, "Happy Days." He received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Mr. Miyagi in the "Karate Kid" movies and a star on Hollywood Blvd.

In a note to the Gila Reunion committee, he wrote: "Morita, the kid from Camp 2, would finally hit the peak of the mountain he chose to climb even before he learned to walk. He would only hope to pass this small example of persistence of continued effort on to those who receive no encouragement for dreaming their dreams and hope only to hope beyond their means; that they might live and breathe long enough to fulfill both."



### HARRY I. HORII



In America's golden age of space exploration, Harry Horii given 40 years of expertise in this exciting career. After receiving his BSEE degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Harry made aerospace his life work. He has been with Rockwell International for 40 years, retiring from its Space Division in 1994 as an executive that led over 300 engineers who designed and developed the Avionics for the Apollo and Shuttle Orbiter space vehicles.

During the Apollo and Shuttle space missions, he provided flights support to the Flight Controllers in Houston. he was in Houston during the first moon landing. Now he is a consultant to Rockwell International.

For his contributions toward US space exploration, he has received numerous awards and recognition. In 1971 he received the President's Award from the Rockwell Space Division, the highest award the company offers. In 1986 he received recognition from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his significant contributions to the US space program. In 1991 he received the Distinguished Public Service Medal from the NASA in a ceremony in Washington, DC. This is NASA's highest civilian award.

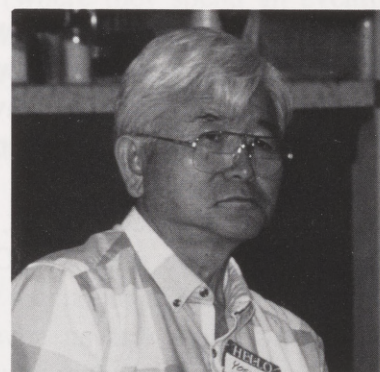
Harry is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, and Eta Kappa Nu, the national electrical engineering honor society.



### YOSHIO C. NAKAMURA

When Rio Hondo College opened its doors in 1963, the college enrollment was 500 with a faculty of 40. A professor of art in the Fine Arts Department was a young Nisei educator and artist, Yoshio Nakamura.

In 1992, 29 years later Rio Hondo had a student enrollment of 18,000, a faculty of 500 and a vice-president of community and student services and institutional development. The same Yoshio Nakamura saw the college grow from infancy to maturity and held one of the top administrative positions. That year he retired to go full blast into his first love, art.



Yosh, as he is known to friends, graduated from Butte High School in Gila, enlisted in the US Army during World War II, joined the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. Serving in Europe, he earned the Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the European Theatre Ribbon with three Battle Stars.

He earned his bachelor and master of fine arts degrees from the University of Southern California, graduating magna cum laude. He also studied at University of California at Los Angeles and UC Riverside, Whittier College, Stanford University, California State University, Los Angeles, and Otis Art Institute.

Throughout his adult years he has achieved high distinction in both education and art. As an educator he has been given the National Person of the Year award in 1980 and the Regional Person of the Year Award in 1978 by the National Council on Community Services and Continuing Education. The Association of Community and Continuing Education presented him the Mariann Loniello Award, its highest state award, in 1991.

Since his retirement from education, Yosh and his wife, Aiko Grace Shinoda, have pursued their interests in art. Yosh works in printmaking, etchings, and pastel painting. He has had his work in over 20 juried exhibits, over 50 invitational exhibits, and eight solo exhibits. He, Grace and their family of two sons and a daughter have done four "A Family Creates" exhibits, showing work by all five members of the Nakamura family. Yosh's work is also presented in over 150 private, corporate and public collections. He has also had nine First or Best of Show Prizes in Painting and Graphics.

In the Whittier area Yosh has served a number of community projects and committees, including the Rio Hondo Symphony Association, the City of Whittier Cultural Arts Commission and Project Into Community Services, Inc., of which he is a member of the Board of Directors. He is or has been associated with 20 local church, art and historical organizations and museums.

In retirement Yosh and Grace have continued to devote their time to artwork. The Gila 50th Reunion Committee has also benefited from Yosh's participation both in the reunion planning and in the post-reunion book production.



### SHO NOMURA

Sho Nomura ought to write a book. It has been recommended many times, since his adventures after leaving Gila have taken him to distant exotic places and into the company of historic, even some fabulous figures. He does have an irrepressible humor and a readable style, and he has given some accounts of his military experiences in print (see John Aiso and the M.I.S., for example).

Sho's saga began when, in November 1942 he volunteered for military service and was sent to the Japanese language school in Camp Savage, Minnesota. Graduating in June 1943, he was sent to a number of places in the states before being shipped to the China-Burma-India theater for four months. Just getting there was an adventure, taking 45 days by sea, the voyage swinging south and around Australia to avoid Japanese naval attack, before reaching Calcutta, then New Delhi.

Moving to Chungking in China in July 1944 he was one of the first four Nisei to be assigned there. In September he and a buddy, George I. Nakamura, were assigned to a little known, new intelligence effort of the Americans in China, the Dixie Mission. This action was recommended earlier by General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell as an effort to establish an observer group in Communist China and finally permitted by Chiang Kai-shek, president of National China.

The mission, comprised of a highly diverse group of men, served a year and, in all, included only five Nisei. It included State Department men, military tacticians, weathermen, Navy personnel, propaganda experts, OSS officers, economic experts and intelligence personnel. It was based in Yen-an, then capitol of Communist China, and placed the Americans in close contact with many who became world figures as leaders of Communist China through the next four or more decades.

Sho's primary assignment was with Order of Battle Intelligence, whose purpose was to obtain information on Japanese military units, their deployment and strength and whatever other vital information was needed. Sho's task was to interrogate the Japanese prisoners of war and to prepare reports. For his meritorious service he was presented the Bronze Star Medal.

Among the Chinese Communist leaders were such figures as Mao Tse-tun, Chou En-lai, Chu Ten, Yeh Chien-ying, Madam Mao and Dr. Ha Hai-tech (an American Lebanese who adopted communism and a Chinese name). The doctor, also, contributed to the war effort by successfully performing an appendectomy on Sho.

Among other officials he came in contact with were Major General Patrick J. Hurley, flamboyant future ambassador whose job at the time was to arrange a coalition between the Chinese Communists and Chiang Kai-shek, and Nozaka Sanzo, who was to become the Communist leader in postwar Japan.

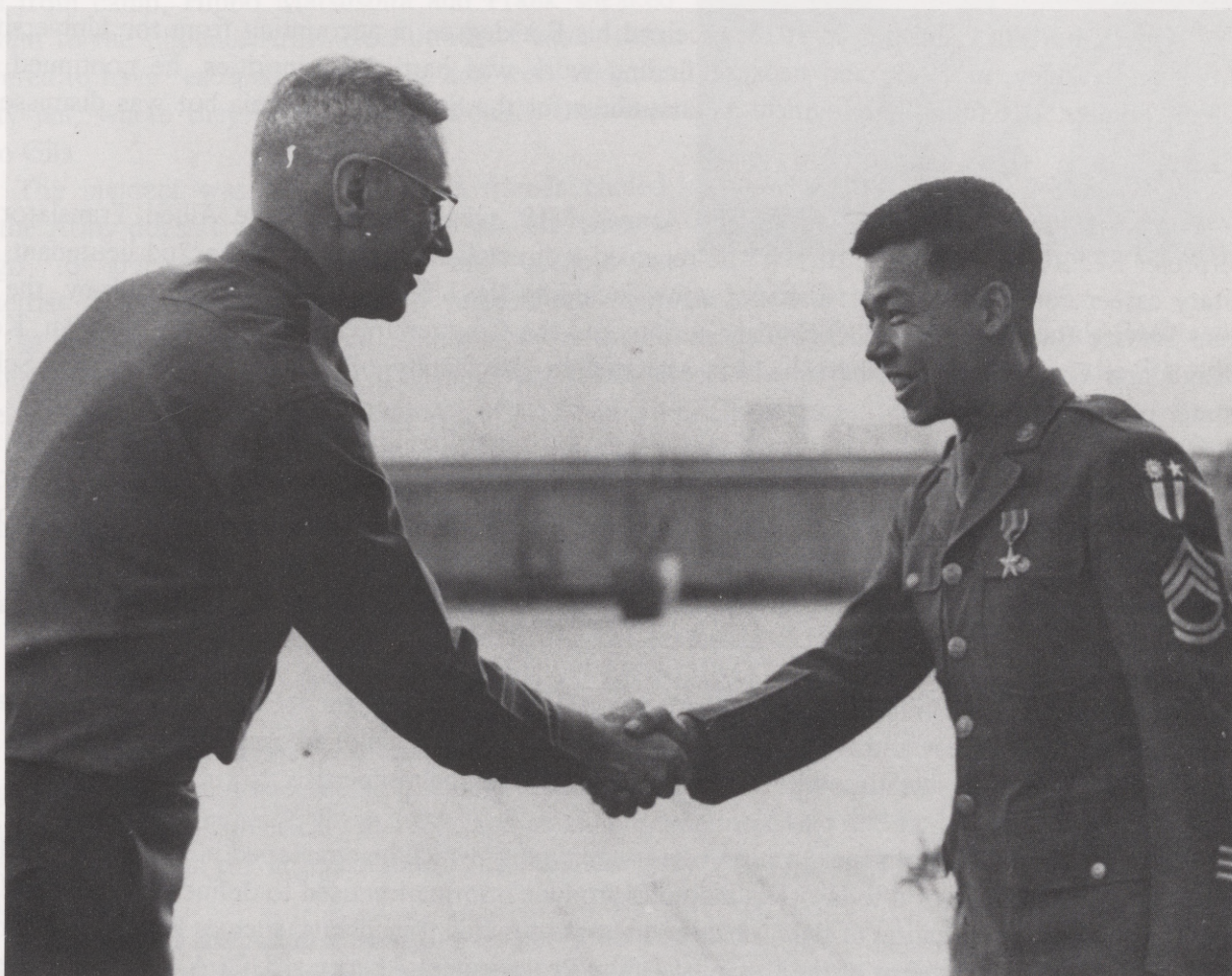
With the end of the war in August 1945, Sho's return home was a minor adventure in itself, taking him to Chungking, Shanghai, Taiwan and Tokyo. Unlike the vast majority of GI's, whose passage home was by boat, Sho was flown home, from Tokyo to Johnson Island, then Seattle.

Back in civilian life, his search for work took him back to Japan, where he worked five years with Allied Translation and Interrogation Service in Tokyo, translating letters, news articles and whatever else the US government perused for information and intelligence in occupied Japan. Probably the most eventful accomplishment as a civil servant there was his marriage to Florence Seiki, a former Pasadena resident whom Sho knew when he lived in Sierra Madre before the war.



In 1978 the Dixie Mission held a reunion, sponsored by the Chinese government, that took the men and their wives to Canton, Shanghai, Nanking, Chungking, Yen-an (where they spend an eventful year in World War II) and Peiping. They were treated royally (as well as a communist government could) and met the many Chinese leaders with whom they fought the enemy.

Now Sho is home in Sierra Madre, remembering the experiences about which he ought to write a book.



Technician Third Grade Shuso Nomura was presented the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious service by Major General Ray McClellan, October 1945, in Shanghai.



### **BENJAMIN T. OBATA**

In 1983 Benjamin Obata completed 41 years of service in US Army intelligence work. In 1942 he and his family were sent to Gila Relocation Center and in November of that year he volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage. In 1963 he retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel, but was then employed by Army Intelligence as a Department of Army civilian. He served a decade with various Army Intelligence units in the U.S., Japan and Europe and retired for good in 1983.

Obata, born in California in 1918, received his BA degree in accounting from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1940, and because finding work was hard for minorities, he continued with graduate studies. He found employment as an auditor for the State of California but was dismissed on Dec. 7, 1941.

After leaving Gila for service in the Army's MIS, Obata served in the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section in Australia. In 1945 he received a direct field commission as a 2nd lieutenant. His military career continued with a variety of units, including the US Strategic Bombing Survey, the 71st Signal Service Battalion, the GHQ Signal Section, and the Counter Intelligence Corps in Japan, Korea, Chicago and Fort Holabird, where he was assigned to the faculty of the Army Intelligence School, Counter Intelligence Division.

Obata is active in the JACL, Washington, D.C. Chapter, and also served as the first treasurer of the Japanese American Veterans Associations when it was organized in 1992. He was married to Joanne Nagata in 1946 and they have two children.

### **DR. PAUL TERASAKI**

When the Soviet Union suffered a disastrous atomic generator plant accident, Dr. Paul Terasaki, a UCLA professor to surgery and world-renowned pioneer in tissue typing and organ transplants, was a member of a team of US scientists who went to Russia to offer their expertise.

Dr. Terasaki's area of specialization was tissue typing, which he developed in 1954 and which prevails throughout the world today. His methods produce information used to define white cell and tissue types. The identification of types enables doctors to match transplants, such as kidney and bone marrow. He served as director of the Regional Organ Procurement Agency at UCLA, which has been involved with thousands of kidney transplants alone. Research in bone marrow transplantation has determined that a person in need of bone marrow transplant has the best chance of a match with a person of the same race. This finding led to a campaign to recruit Asian American potential donors.

Dr. Terasaki was born in Los Angeles and was a junior high school student in Gila River internment camp. He earned his doctorate in zoology at UCLA and completed post-doctoral work at the University College in London. He joined the UCLA faculty in 1969.

His many awards include the Karl Landsteiner Award from the American Association of Blood Banks, the Rose Payne Award from the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, and the Philip Levine Award from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. On his many trips to Japan, he established tissue typing there. He and his wife have three sons and a daughter. Two of the sons and the daughter have entered related medical fields.



### FRANK F. SAKAMOTO

Sneaking out of Gila on a lark with a friend and being tossed into the Phoenix city jail was at the time an incident with mixed feelings, but it probably led to a major career change for Frank F. Sakamoto, now a prominent doctor of optometry in Chicago.

When many of his friends were joining the Armed Forces from camp, Hippo Matsushita and Frank sneaked out, went to the Phoenix Army Recruitment Center, were discovered to have "escaped" from Gila, and were taken to the city jail, where they were slapped around, then sent back to Gila.

The incident was humiliating and friends chided, "See, the Army doesn't want you." So Frank left, went to Chicago to pursue his education and became an optometrist. He retired recently from 47 years of active private practice.

In his busy career he served 10 years on the Illinois State Professional Regulation of Optometry Licensing Board, was elected chief of optometrists at the Illinois Masonic Hospital, and was the first non-Swede elected president of the Andersonville (IL) Chamber of Commerce.

In his professional life Dr. Sakamoto has more than two dozen distinctions and associations both statewide and national. In his community he has been president of two Chambers of Commerce, of his Kiwanis Club, and of the Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (three terms). In JACL he has also served as Midwest District Governor, 3rd Vice-President of the National JACL Board, and National 1000 Club Chairman.



### DR. TAKAO SHISHINO

Dr. Takao Shishino is a successful optometrist who devoted much of his professional life to helping Asians enter and succeed in the same field. Settling in Southern California, he established his optometry practice in Culver City in 1953, and as his practice increased and he became well established, he was instrumental in the organization of the Japanese American Optometry Association and served as its charter president.

Today called the Asian Optometry Society, this organization had a two-fold program - helping students attend a professional school and enlisting established optometrists to fill in for members who are ill or have passed away and left their patients not covered. This society now numbers over 125 members.

After retiring from practice in 1992, Dr. Shishino served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Southern California College of Optometry. An annual scholarship in his name was recently funded at the college, recognition of and appreciation for the many years of leadership he has shown to the optometry profession.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he was chairman of the class of 1952 from the UCB School of Optometry. His professional affiliations are many: chairman, Southern California College of Optometry Board of Trustees; honorary alumnus of the same school; founder, Southern California Berkeley Association; clinical investigator, Syntex Ophthalmics; fellow, American Academy of Optometry; president, Southern California Lupus Association; and a member of the American Optometry Association; the Contact Lens Section of the same association; California Optometry Association; Los Angeles County Optometry Society, and Southern California Public Health Association.



### SYMON SATOW

Mabel Sheldon, a Methodist missionary who taught English and Sunday School in Gila during World War II, spoke often of her work in India teaching the Gospel. So well did she speak of the need for medical mission workers in India that one of her young pupils was firmly convinced he was called to that future. After much thought and some prayer, Symon Satow still in his early teens, decided that he would become a doctor and go off to far-off India to serve.

Perhaps early in his life there was a gentle shove in the direction of a ministry to God. At age 3 Symon was in Japan and became very ill. His father, then in the US, and his mother, in Japan, both prayed that if Symon's life was spared, they would dedicate him to God's service. Neither knew the other was praying the same prayer, and Symon, knowing this story, grew up wondering what God wanted him to do with his life.

He studied in Ohio at the College of Wooster and Western Reserve School of Medicine, assisted by a Presbyterian Church service loan, and completed his internship and residency in surgery. In lieu of military service he gave two years of service in US Public Health Service hospitals.

Appointed a missionary of the Presbyterian Church USA, he underwent training in linguistics, cross cultural orientation, and, in India, two years of local language study. He found this period a rich experience, as he met missionaries from all over the world and shared a variety of cultures and theological positions, but a great unity in Christ.

He then plunged into years of service in the mission field in India, beginning in the Frances Newton Hospital in the Punjab. Here he soon saw some of the challenges of his work: the volume of work in the number of patients and their great needs. Also, the rare experience of saving the life of a man, then finding out he helped a local mobster.

In 1966 a head nurse from England with whom he had had a difference of opinion regarding responsibility towards patients was about to return to England. Symon quickly asked her hand in marriage and after three days of uncertainty, she consented. In England he married Yvonne and they have three children, all born in India.

In his next assignment, "loaned" by the Presbyterian Church to the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA), he served at the Herbertpur as well as executive secretary, then medical advisor of EHA. This responsibility required much challenging travel, leaping from one crisis to another in patients, hospitals and the EHA.

Symon and Yvonne's last five years in India were in Mussoorie, where their children went to Woodstock, an international Christian school. By the time he was to retire, he was able to hand over responsibility to highly competent Indian colleagues who had become brothers and sisters in the work. The Satows returned to the US in 1992 and spent six months in Presbyterian Church headquarters in Louisville. Learning from a former missionary surgeon in India that the small town of Hinton in West Virginia needed medical help, the Satows put down "earnest money" on a house there, not knowing how he would make the down payment. Four days later his reparation check came from Uncle Sam with the standard apology letter, enough for the down payment and even some furniture. This last minute blessing proved to be a confirmation that it was God's will for them to settle in Hinton, and now they feel at home in this beautiful, friendly town.





### BETTY MIIKO SHIKATA

Betty Miiko Shikata had an experience which sounds like a Hollywood movie. In fact, it was for a Hollywood movie, for she starred in a feature film with Academy Award winning actor Marlon Brando.

Not more than a few years after she left Gila as a young lady, she read a book and heard it was about to be made into a movie. A friend urged Miiko to go to a casting and, just like a movie story, she was selected to play the female lead. The movie was a hit - "Sayonara" - a wonderful love story about an American officer and a Japanese woman. Her name in the film's credits is Miiko Taka.

The experience, however, did not result in stars in the eyes for Miiko, who insists that she is not an actress and put her short-lived celluloid career behind her.

Now married to Len Blondheim, a TV producer, and living in Beverly Hills, Miiko is happy with her family and grandchildren and keeps in touch with many of her Gila friends.





### YUKIKO CHERRY TSUTSUMIDA

In Washington, D.C., Cherry is currently serving as the Associate Administrator for External Affairs for the Health Resources and Services Administration, the second largest agency within the Public Health Service. The agency is responsible for providing comprehensive health and training services particularly to the most underserved. Prior to this job, she was the Director of Congressional Affairs for the Health Resources and Services Administration. She was responsible for the office which manages the concerns of Congressional offices on issues related to Medicare, Medicaid and their supporting services and programs. Medicare, Medicaid provide services to 40.5 million Americans and has a budget of \$66 billion per year.

Cherry's record of achievements began in 1950, when she was selected by her high school to be a delegate to the American Legion's Girl's State. The service organization was unwilling to sponsor her because of her Japanese ancestry. The Arizona chapter of JACL stepped forward and sponsored her. Cherry went on to be the first Governor of Girl's State in the nation and was later selected one of the two outstanding citizens sent to Girl's Nation. She was subsequently a winner of the Masaoka Scholarship as the Outstanding Japanese American graduate in 1951.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1955, majoring in Political Science. In 1958 she returned to UCB's School of Public Health on a Federal Fellowship and received her Master's degree. In 1972 she was selected as one of the 19 Federal employees by the American Political Science Association and the Civil Service Commission to be a Congressional Fellow and she did a comparative analysis of all the national health insurance bills introduced to Congress.

Prior to her entry in the health field, Cherry worked on the personal staff of Secretary of State Wesley Bolin in Arizona and with the State's legislative process. She then became editor of the **Arizona Public Health News**, the monthly publication of the State Health Department. She later became the Director of Health Education. In 1962 she was recruited to work in Washington, D.C., in the Cancer Control Program.

Cherry has been a leader in the Japanese American Citizens League. As president of the Arizona chapter, she was responsible for the repeal of the Alien Land law and the Miscegenation Act of Arizona. In San Francisco she was twice elected to the Board of the San Francisco JACL. In Washington she has been elected Governor of the Eastern District of JACL. She was an early activist in the JACL plan for reparations for World War II internees.

Professionally she was elected in 1980 to the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association, the largest professional organization in this field in the US.



### CAESAR UYESAKA

"Mr. Santa Barbara Baseball" and "the thread through the history of sports in Santa Barbara" are the appropriate monickers given to the late Caesar Uyesaka in recognition of his life-long support in time and money of youth and sports. He died in June this year, a year after the new baseball stadium at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was named "Caesar Uyesaka Stadium."

His life as a businessman, civic leader and philanthropist began early in his teens. While still in high school, he created a "Buck-a-Month Club" of boosters for Santa Barbara State College, the predecessor to USCB today. While still in high school, he opened his own auto repair shop and before World War II, he owned three gas stations. Returning to Santa Barbara after the war, Caesar started a mobile auto parts shop, driving a truck loaded with parts to customers. This entrepreneurship led to his highly successful auto parts supply and machine shop business.

During the early days of UCSB sports, he and a friend, Jerry Harwin, came to be known to university officials as "the Gold Dust Twins" because of the amount of money they gave to the university.

In 1961 he was honored as Santa Barbara's Father of the Year for his involvement with his three children and leadership in the Boys club, Boy Scouts and the First Methodist Church.

In 1962 he received the "Nisei of the Biennium" Award from the JACL. He was also dubbed "Mr. Santa Barbara Baseball" for helping attract a New York Mets farm club to the city. He was unanimously voted club president.

In 1963 he led the move to bring a Los Angeles Dodgers farm team to Santa Barbara in replacement of the Mets. Caesar began a close friendship with the family of Dodger owner Walter O' Malley.

He received a number of recognition's, including the R.F. McFarland Memorial Trophy for outstanding contributions to sports in the Santa Barbara area, induction into the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame, and, finally, having the USCB baseball field named after him. He also made a \$25,000 donation to the fund raising drive he spearheaded to build the stadium.

Caesar also served the community as a Recreation Commissioner, a YMCA leader, and as a member of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce.



Tommy Lasorda, left, and Caesar Uyesaka visited in 1992 when the Los Angeles Dodgers manager came to Santa Barbara.



MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN



One Gila “alumna” to whom all Japanese Americans might well be indebted is Michi Weglyn, whose family name was Nishiura when she was a high school student in camp. Her scholarly, thorough investigation of the wartime internment, **Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America’s Concentration Camps**, published in 1976, brought to the attention of all America how 112,000 civilians - more than 70,000 of whom were native-born American citizens - were removed bodily from their home by the US government and placed in so-called relocation camps throughout eight Western states.

An honor student in high school (see Yosh Nakamura’s chapter on life in Gila in another section of this reunion booklet), Michi went on to Mt. Holyoke College on a full tuition scholarship in 1944. Honors she won early were the Hattie M. Strong Foundation Grant in 1945, Stage Design Award at Mt. Holyoke in 1945, and the Fashion Academy (New York) Gold Medal in 1947.

In 1950 she married Walter M. Weglyn, then a chemist, and began her career as a theatrical costume designer for ice shows, night clubs, Broadway plays and television. Her long list of credits includes designs for the Roxy Theater, Copacabana night club, Kraft Television Theater, Tony Bennett Show, and the long-running Perry Como Show. In 1964 she established her own costume manufacturing and design studio, Michi Associates, Ltd.

Her associations include the Authors Guild, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Japanese American Citizens League, Association of American Indian Affairs, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

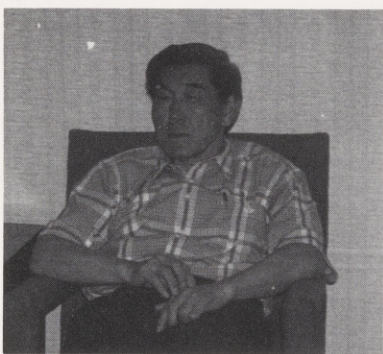
Michi said she was spurred to write **Years of Infamy** by then Attorney General Ramsey Clark’s statement in the civil rights era of the 1960’s that “we have never had, do not now have and will not ever have concentration camps here.” She plunged into eight years of research, including secret files from the FDR library, the National Archives and other sources that disclosed the government’s reasoning and actions.

In 1992 her many awards and recognitions were capped by the presentation of the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, by Hunter College. Among other recognitions was the Japanese American of the Biennium Award from the JACL in 1976 in recognition of her outstanding service by a Japanese American. In 1977 the Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations was presented to her for **Years of Infamy**. She was selected by a panel of judges: Pulitzer Prize winning Harvard historian, Dr. Oscar Handlin, Pulitzer Prize winning poet and novelist Gwendolyn Brooks, and Dr. Ashley Montagu, internationally renowned social biologist.

The many friends of Michi this year extended their sincere expressions of sympathy to her on the passing of her husband, Walter, on Aug. 22 in San Diego. He had retired in 1988 from his career as a creator of perfumes for International Flavors and Fragrances.



## JOHN YASUMOTO



More than 30 years of JACL leadership, 34 years in civil service with the US Navy, and 15 years of leadership in the Buddhist Church add up to a worthwhile lifetime and more. John Yasumoto, who has been especially successful in these respects, has been able to do so because of his ability to bridge the communications gap between generations, especially with the older Japanese as well as younger sansei and yonsei.

John, who was born in Sanger, California, and was interned with his family in Canal block 10, graduated from high school in camp. He later attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and earned a degree in marine engineering. This led to his joining the civil service, working with the US Navy in San Francisco.

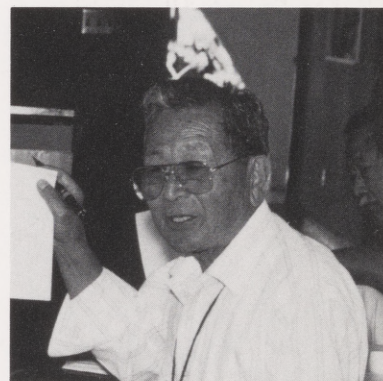
In 1961-1962 he served as president of the San Francisco Chapter of JACL. In 1964 he was voted district governor of Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific Island District Council of JACL. In 1965 he recognized the need for medical insurance for JACL members and became part of the committee that worked out details of the California Blue Shield Health Trust that was established and today offers its benefits to cover 13,000 policy holders. He became chairman of that program in 1965 and continues in that position today.

A long-time member of the Buddhist church, he has been president of the San Francisco Buddhist Church since 1980. In 1985 he was elected president of the Bay Area District Churches of America and also continued as a director on the board of the Buddhist Churches of America until 1994. He was appointed auditor on the Executive Board of the Buddhist Churches of America in 1994.

John retired from civil service in 1986 and lives in San Francisco with his wife Chibi Yamamoto. They have a son, Jason, and a daughter, Liane.

## MASAJI (MAS) INOSHITA

In the Pacific theater of World War II, you name a place, and chances are Mas Inoshita might have been there. A graduate of the Military Intelligence Language Service at Camp Savage, Minnesota, his tours of duty took him to Delhi, India; Fremantle, Australia; Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Calcutta, India. Then he was assigned to the British in Burma and received a British commendation. After a year he was flown to Kunming, China, and chosen by the Office of Strategic Services to survey possible occupation sites for the US Military. On Japan's surrender, Mas became part of a five-man team to observe the surrender of smaller Japanese units to the Chinese military along the Yangtze River. Imagine sailing the Yangtze in a Japanese Navy gunboat with Japanese Navy crewmen and the Japanese Naval flag flying. Mas did it.



His military adventures continued in Shanghai, Okinawa, Tokyo, and Hiroshima, where he was sent for survey work, and came to an honorable end with discharge in March, 1946, after three and a half years.

Before WWII he had grown up in Santa Maria, California, where at age 20 he took over the farm. The family was evacuated to Gila, where Mas enlisted in the US Army and set off for tours to a variety of Asian scenes of action. After his discharge from military service he joined his family in Glendale, Arizona, to help on the farm. He also tried selling insurance and securities but preferred farming to the night work required in business. In the community he was a leader in helping the Arizona JACL resume chapter activities and served in several capacities including president. In 1950 he was elected to the board of the Arizona Buddhist Church and served 35 years, eight times as chairman. He was also one of the founders of the Arizona JACL Credit Union and even taught Issei to become US citizens.

In 1981 he retired from farming but within four months went to work for a large corporate farm, then retired again in 1991. He became involved with the Gila River Reunion Committee in 1993 and was an important member working on details of planning and execution for the highly successful 50th year reunion this spring.

Just in case he has time on his hands, Mas has also been a full-time volunteer librarian in a Phoenix elementary school.



## NEW YORK

### NEW YORK

More than 30 years of JACL leadership, 14 years in civil service with the

U.S. Army, and 15 years of leadership in the National Japanese American Relocation Authority, Mr. [Name] has been a leader in the Japanese American community for decades. He has been a leader in the Japanese American community for decades. He has been a leader in the Japanese American community for decades.

Mr. [Name] was born in [Location] and grew up in [Location]. He attended [School] and [School]. He worked for [Company] and [Company]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization].

In 1941, he was interned in the [Location] War Relocation Authority camp. He worked for the [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization].

After the war, he worked for the [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization].

He retired from civil service in 1970 and has been in San Francisco with his wife, [Name], since then. They have a son, [Name], and a daughter, [Name].

## MAZU CHIAI INQUIRY

Reports to the [Organization] and [Organization] that [Name] was a member of [Organization] and [Organization].

Mr. [Name] was born in [Location] and grew up in [Location]. He attended [School] and [School]. He worked for [Company] and [Company]. He was a member of [Organization] and [Organization].

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## RECOGNITION

The committee dedicates this book to all former internees of the Gila River Relocation Camp and to their families in hopes that this will be remembered by them as a historical part of their lives. We hope this book would help depict the experiences of the war years, as well as, rekindling friendships in the intervening years.

We wish to thank all those who attended the reunion and also to everyone who generously donated to the reunion fund which made possible the establishment of a scholarship fund for Gila River Indians, funds to the Japanese American National Museum and creating a permanent exhibit in the Gila River Arts and Crafts Museum.

Many thanks to the following committee members for their help in putting this book together. Great deal of time and effort was spent by the committee in compiling historical data, editing, pictorial displays, etc.

Joe Allman

Sel & Yumiko Oye

Bob Fujii

Urban Giff

Ben Inohara

Mitsui Inohara

Russell & Katie Iwanaga

Sue Koyama

Jin & Masayo Makino

Caro Mami

Beverly Medina

Yo Mori

Henry & Ami Nagahori

Tak & Masako Nagayama

Yoshie & Grace Nakamura

Haruo Nakamura

Teruko Oshige

Ichiro & Lily Ota

Hy & Mirra Shikano

Hank Saw

Ed Tama

Betty Taniguchi

Ben Taniuchi

Joe Yoshida

Yoshie Oshige (contributed material)

Yoshie Oshige (Raku Shuppo)

Yoshie Oshige (Poster)



In closing the chapter of a very difficult time, the amount of words can fully express the appreciation and recognition that should be accorded to the Oye family for their tireless effort in overcoming every phase of this event. From the planning, the historical data, the illustrations, and especially the history of Gila and the drawings of the camp, they have made this book a complete and memorable event. The assistance of the NIPP Management, Inc. and leadership helped in many ways to put the finishing touches to the book.

# Recognition







## RECOGNITION

The committee dedicates this book to all former internees of the Gila River Relocation Camp and to their families in hopes that this will be remembered by them as a historical part of their lives. We hope this book would help depict the experiences of the war years, as well as, reliving friendships in the intervening years.

We wish to thank all those who attended the reunion and also to everyone who generously donated to the reunion fund which made possible the establishment of a scholarship fund for Gila River Indians, funds to the Japanese American National Museum and creating a permanent exhibit in the Gila River Arts and Crafts Museum.

Many thanks to the following committee members for their help in putting this book together. Great deal of time and effort was spent by the committee in compiling historical data, editing, pictorial displays, etc.

Joe Allman  
Sei & Yetsuko Dyo  
Bob Fujii  
Urban Giff  
Ben Inoshita  
Masaji Inoshita  
Russell & Katie Iwanaga  
Sue Koyama  
Jim & Masayo Makino  
Chico Masai  
Beverly Medina  
Yo Mori

Henry & Ami Nagahori  
Tak & Masako Nagayama  
Yoshio & Grace Nakamura  
Hatsie Nakamura  
Teruko Oshige  
Ichiro & Lily Ota  
Hy & Mitzie Shishino  
Hank Sato  
Ted Tajima  
Betty Taniguchi  
Ben Tonooka  
Joe Yoshida

Aiko Yoshinga Herzig (contributed material)  
Martha Nakagawa (Rafu Shimpo)  
Wayne Allenegui (Printer)

Susan Gill, Staff Writer and Nancy Newman Bauer, Photographer for the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Pasadena Star News, and the Whittier Daily News.

In compiling this list of names, we apologize for any persons that might have been omitted.

In closing this chapter of a very successful reunion, no amount of praise or words can fully express the appreciation and recognition that should be accorded to Sei Dyo for his tireless effort in overseeing every phase of this event - from the planning stage, banquet details, entertainment, and especially the history of Gila and the thousands of internees. Sei gave many hours, days and months to complete this memorable event. His expertise in organizing the various committees, utilizing his staff at MHP Management, Inc. and leadership inspired all the committee members to work together over two years to put the finishing touches to the 50th year Phoenix, Arizona, reunion and this souvenir book.



*In loving memory of*

*Parents: Kinxo and Hama Yamamoto*

*Grandmother: Tome Yamamoto*

*Brothers: Ernest, Frances and Edward Yamamoto*



*From the Daughters,*

*Miyoko Penzaki*

*Yo Tamaki*

*Jane Tsuboi Nagano*

*Noriko Ruth Tsuboi*

*Hannah Tomita*



Rivers, Arizona  
1942-1945  
RIP

Gila Relocation Center closed  
on Nov. 11, 1945. Only empty  
barracks and scattered goods  
left behind remains.

May such an unjustified  
incarceration never happen  
again.



